

Educational Supplement

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PAUL JOHNSON

Fatherly eyes

Teachers must keep a balance between watching and trusting

Should children be watched or trusted? This is an important problem of pedagogy. At the Jesuit boarding school I attended, there was no doubt about the answer. Children should be watched. Since the mid-16th century, the Society of Jesus had spent more time and trouble considering the theoretical and practical problems of educating boys (a comparable order of nuns dealt with girls) than any other body of people, and they had reached firm conclusions about most aspects of the subject.

Their policy was that a master should be in eyesight or earshot or, at any rate, easy reach of the boys at all times. They recognized the virtues of the prefectorial system and employed it to some extent. But they drew an absolute distinction in status between masters and boys and never confused the two. They argued that, to confer supervisory powers on older boys, beyond certain narrow limits, led to various forms of moral corruption and was productive of terrible unhappiness.

Some boys, perhaps only a few, had an incorrigible propensity to vice; that meant all boys should be watched, or should imagine they were being watched, virtually all the time, by the highly trained and disciplined members of their Order.

The philosophy did not always work in practice. Those were still the days of the giant schoolroom for the lower boys. We had one which took about 300, with a desk for each, his name engraved on a beautiful brass plate attached to the top. We did our preparation work there at stated times, and this formidable congregation was supervised by a solitary Jesuit sitting in a tall desk at the end of the room.

To prevent boys doing written impositions during official prep time, lines had to be written on special pink paper. The supervising master strolled up and down the gangway from time to time, to satisfy himself that no "pink paper work" was being done. The tedious duty was no doubt unpopular, and therefore performed by junior members of staff, sometimes men of little experience.

The massed boys easily detected signs of a weak will, or uncertainty in the man at the high look-out, and were liable to subject him to an alarming experience. We all had desks with two flaps opening outwards, rather

than one big lid. The advantage to authority of this arrangement was that we could not hide behind our lids; the disadvantage was that the flaps could be collectively banged in such a way that it was hard to detect who was making the noise, or at least who started it. In no time, all joined in, and the banging rose to a thunderous crescendo of quite appalling sonority, while the master sat there white-faced, until it subsided, or until the disturbance brought reinforcements.

Curiously enough, when I later went to Paris to write about French politics, I discovered that members of the Assemblée Nationale engaged in similar cruel demonstrations against unpopular speakers: in the official record it was known as *cliquement des pupitres*.

So the Jesuitical policy of constant supervision did not always work. But in general it was applied with great skill and considerable success. One was conscious of a watchful eye. But the system did not appear oppressive, at least in my experience, since it led to needful kindness more often than severity. No boy was allowed to remain unhappy for long, without some Jesuit trying to find out the source of the trouble and doing something about it. The watchfulness was parental and sympathetic, rather than authoritarian. It seemed to me to display interest more than any other characteristic.

And, of course, it produced certain very positive benefits. Those two great evils of the old-fashioned boarding school, bullying and pederasty, were almost non-existent. Parents could send their boy to the school with reasonable confidence that he would be neither brutalized nor seduced.

Of course there were disadvantages. It was very expensive in manpower; or perhaps one should say that it placed great burdens on the staff, who had their own religious and scholarly duties to perform and can have had virtually no free time at all during the term. I doubt if the system could have worked in a secular academy. But the long hours were of no consequence for the Jesuits, who expected to devote all their waking lives to service; that was why they had joined the Order in the first place.

A more serious objection was that constant supervision by adults inhibits the development of self-reliance, and what used to be called "leadership qualities" among the boys. The Jesuits argued that any defect on this score was made up by positive moral education, which they certainly supplied in various forms. For one thing, membership of the Officer Training Corps was compulsory, and its activities were given high priority and taken with great seriousness. In practice, I doubt if any boy capable of giving a loud and displaying authority lacked the

opportunity to do so. In any case experience has since convinced me that it is dangerous and even to allow teenage children extensive freedom in running their own affairs. They may demand such concessions and claim to benefit from them, at least at the time, in striving to give a child the right to adulthood for which he is not yet ready. It may in fact be depriving him of the right to his childhood - to which he is unquestionably entitled. This right can never be restored or made good: it is gone forever. The consequences of such deprivation may be lasting.

I often think that the irresponsible many young people aged between 20 and today is an unconscious but none the less emphatic demonstration of their feeling that their childhood was unfairly truncated. They were pushed into a false maturity and as genuine adults, they try almost in desperation to recreate the carefree years stolen from them. Obviously, teachers must keep balance between watching and trusting: it is no bad thing to err on the side of invigilation.

NEXT WEEK

Rock writers
Are they debasing public life and corrupting the young? Brian Morton reports

Effects of the action
Parents talked of "ruined education" - but were they right?

Central control
David Keast reviews the new arrangements for in-service training

Survival of the fittest
Conrad Russell on the side-effects of student loans

Unions urge 16-plus cash talks with exam boards

by James Meikle

Teachers want urgent talks with the exam boards on payments to assess pupils and to mark papers for the new GCSE, for which courses begin in September.

They are also to step up pressure on the Government to provide cash for extra staff and the boards' costs. Teachers' disquiet follows the reluctance to accept by the two big unions that they should co-operate in training and preparation of the GCSE which they still say is underfunded, under-planned and a year too early.

Payments for O level and CSE project assessment and exam marking were already low and causing increasing resentment. Now there is a growing uneasiness about how payments for the GCSE should be agreed.

The National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers is still telling members they should not do assessment for the new exam outside school time. The National Union of Teachers is advising goodwill and co-operation, while also reminding members not to bear more than a reasonable workload.

The NAS/UNT this week called for a national negotiating body to fix across-the-board sums. At present, payments vary considerably and many teachers are not school teachers. The boards themselves are awaiting the outcome of the pay and conditions talks at Acas. The question of pay-

ments for the GCSE is not under discussion but they want to see what responsibilities for assessment - whether for exams or not, in or out of timetable hours - may emerge.

They also point out that, although they are independent bodies, much of their income comes from the local education authorities in pupils' entry fees.

So far, the Government has given no indication how much money may be available to pay such costs for exams set in 1988.

Both the Association of County Councils and the NUT say £25 million may be needed to cover the extra fees.

Mr Brian Swift, the secretary of the GCSE Joint Council, said the boards felt they could discuss the matter no further until after the Acas deliberations.

Payments vary considerably at the moment. The East Anglian Examinations Board pays CSE markers, for instance, 34p per script in exams over an hour but less than 90 minutes long, rising to 58p for papers of more than two hours. The fee for marking a project is 60p a candidate.

The Associated Examining Board O level payments can range from 20p to 80p per candidate for projects. Examples of script payments are 86p for a two-hour 15 minute economics paper, 93p for a two-hour French exam and 72p for a 90-minute English paper.

Baker plea for sponsors

Mr Kenneth Baker wants industry to help pay for a massive campaign to lure maths, physics and technical experts into teaching.

The Education Secretary is also still pressing for differential payments for teachers in areas where there is a recruitment crisis. The unions have repeatedly resisted the idea.

The Department of Education and Science and the Welsh Office this week issued a consultative document on teacher supply in maths, physics and technology, and want comments on an action programme by October.

The publication acknowledges several initiatives taken by employers and wants to follow the example of ICI which has former employees attend short induction courses at Manchester Polytechnic and a year's post-graduate teacher training ready for a second career teaching science.

At Question Time in the Commons on Tuesday, Mr Baker also suggested former servicemen with a technical background could be encouraged into teaching.

The DES is to persevere with the bursary scheme of £1,200 a year tax-free to students entering postgraduate courses or specially designed short programmes in maths, physics and craft, designs and technology.

Fifteen per cent of vacancies for physics teachers advertised in the first half of the autumn term last year received no applications, according to the Institute of Physics.

A Society of Education Officers briefing document notes that the academic qualifications of would-be teachers undergoing PGCE physics training is lower than for other subjects.

Teacher shortage crisis - page 6



Mugging up: students from the London College of Fashion and St Martin's School of Art took to the streets of Covent Garden on Monday to show passers-by the make-up and fashion of the future.

DES sits on report of falling maths standards

by Biddy Passmore

A disturbing report which suggests that the mathematical performance of English and Welsh pupils has got worse since the early 1960s and is slipping down the international league is lying unpublished in the DES, five years after the research was done.

The survey is the second of its kind carried out under the auspices of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA). It involved testing pupils in 23 schooling systems in 1981.

Along among 10 countries whose results in this and the earlier survey could be compared, the performance of English and Welsh 13-year-olds had declined since 1964 in all three basic areas of arithmetic, geometry and algebra. Japanese pupils were well in the lead.

These startling results, which cover the period when modern maths was being widely introduced, have not yet been published by the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER), which produced the British findings.

A draft report went to the DES early in 1983 and a final report, with revised figures, late last year. But DES officials are understood to be busy with other things. Even if they now approve the report, it cannot be published in full before next year.

Staff at the NFER are understood to have been initially shaken by the British findings, although they were comforted to discover that most of the other countries which had taken part in both surveys had seen some decline too. Pupils in all ten countries, for instance, performed less well in the arithmetic tests in 1981 than they had in the same tests in 1964.

Moreover there were some tests, for example involving Venn diagrams, and statistical description, where the English performance had improved.

But the decline in England and Wales appears more consistent across the various measures than that of other countries. And in one area - algebra - English and Welsh 13-year-olds performed worse in 1981 than in 1964, when those in every other country did better, some markedly so.

Thus England and Wales, which started out in 1964 third in the algebra league after Japan and Belgium, is now second from bottom.

At a more senior level, the highly selected sixth formers in England and Wales performed well by comparison with those of other countries where maths is taken by a higher proportion of the age group.

But they were well behind senior Japanese pupils in algebra, geometry and calculus, although Japan has twice

continued page 3

NOTICEBOARD

PEOPLE...

Mr K Bawtree, headmaster of Kingmead School, Heyfield, to be headmaster at Great Walshead School, Unfield on the retirement of Mr G Parks.

Mr A P Millard, deputy head of Wells Cathedral School, to be head of Myrtle College in January 1987 when Mr R C Poulton becomes head of Christ's Hospital.

Anthony Jackson to be deputy county education officer in Norfolk from September 1 to succeed Mr K Reid.

Mr Parry Rogers to be chairman of the Business and Technician Council for three years from October 1 in succession to Mr Neale Raine.

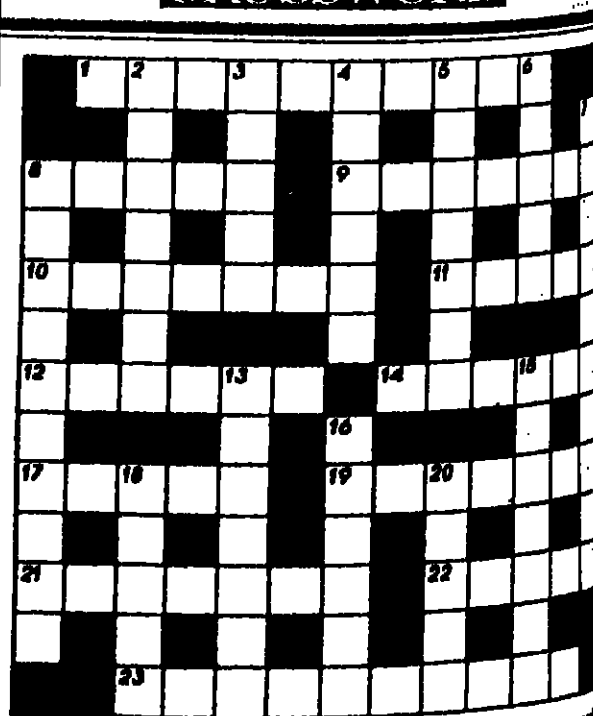
Mr Brian Allison, executive chairman and founder of the Business Intelligence Services group of companies, has been appointed to the Economic and Social Research Council, for three years.

Professor John Tomlinson to be chairman of the Royal Society of Arts examinations board in succession to Frank Candlin.

CONFERENCES...

July 8-11
Change for the Better - National Council of Teachers Centre, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

No 261 CROSSWORD by R. B. L.



Across

- 1 Sights for sore eyes?
- 8 Floral plate design
- 9 A reference to men in distress (7)
- 10 Not a well cooked portion of savoury
- 11 Black magic? (5)
- 12 Highly bumptious?
- 14 A poem's positive points (6)
- 15 Turn tap a quarter and get a flood (5)
- 17 Church clemency (7)
- 21 A big egg-producer making Ringway wealthy (7)
- 22 A backward idiot.

Down

- 2 A supporter of mine
- 3 East holds the French associate of Joshua (5)
- 4 Acknowledges it's mad to change (6)
- 5 Robin Hood's country green (7)
- 6 Musical chairs (5)
- 7 Having the support of the board though too old to work (2, 3, 5)
- 8 A novel religious act (10)
- 13 Places 1 rebuild

INFORMATION

EFFI in the Far East
Anthony Michaelis is researching a book about the experiences of EFL/ESL teachers in the Far East (all levels and types of institutions), and is particularly interested in finding out about contracts, and living and working conditions. An invitation to complete a detailed questionnaire will be sent by return of post. All letters will be acknowledged and any material used attributed, and a free copy sent to the contributor on publication. Please write to him at Rua Marques da Silva 57-2, 1100 Lisbon, Portugal.

Problem-solving
The Bulmershe-Comino problem-solving project is offering an

PUBLICATIONS...

Architects and Building Group
New guidelines for the design of polytechnics and higher education colleges have been published by the Architects and Building Group at the DES. Area Guidelines for Advanced Further Education Institutions Design Note 44, is available free from the DES, Publications Dispatch Centre, Canons Park, Harewood Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 1AZ.



EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
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Get in there and win

Few people need to be told that this is the week after Wimbledon, Henley and the Edgbaston Test; the week before the Open Golf Championship. This is the high summer of 1986 sport, the crowded days between the World Cup and the Commonwealth Games. Until the Peacock Committee finds ways of making everybody pay a lot more, the licence fee provides viewers at home with an amazing service of sporting excellence – all for the press of a button and a few coppers a week.

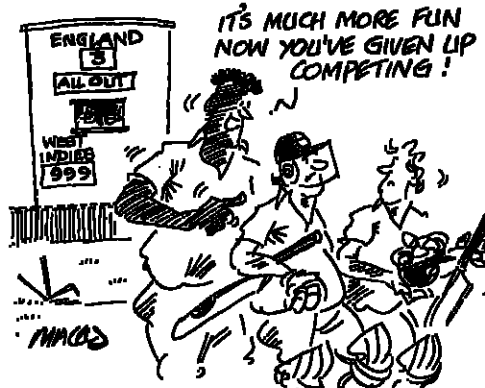
Yes, you may say, as everyone does, there's too much sport on the box, but the viewing figures scale astronomical heights as the fit and the unfit, the athletic and the chair-bound, the young and the old join in the vicarious athleticism of the golden heroes of our time.

It would take a particularly boring kind of sociologist to analyse this shared experience and the place which sport – spectator sport at that – plays in the deprived lives of modern industrial mankind. One thing is clear. Sport at the highest level matters to ordinary people and to not-so-ordinary people. It is a topic of burning interest in the pub and the corner shop, on the top of the bus and in the commuters' railway carriage.

Yes, top-level sport may often be a dirty business, full of professional fouls; the Corinthian sportsman of an earlier age may now be equated with weakness. The great British public knows all this – and knows that too much money corrodes sporting values – but still admires the elite prowess and superb technique and the qualities of sporting stardom which unite Diego Maradona with Boris Becker and Steve Cram and their peers in an aristocracy of sheer talent.

Why then, given this indisputable manifestation of the popular culture, are the schools so ostentatiously moving in the opposite direction? Is not something likely to be lost if the public education system turns its back on sport and sporting excellence and simply refuses to indulge the national sporting tradition?

Traditional competitive sports in schools are under a cloud for a variety of reasons, practical, financial and ideological. The practical and financial reasons are the most significant: the ideological the most infuriating. For practical and technical reasons it becomes increasingly difficult to preserve the conditions in school in which the traditional sports thrive.



There isn't enough time; there isn't enough space; there aren't enough facilities; there aren't enough teachers prepared to devote their time. Moreover, the range of leisure pursuits beyond the school has widened, and there can be less concentration on team games which demand levels of basic skill which may not be generally available.

The practical difficulties – which confront the independent and maintained schools alike in varying measure – merge into the financial: playing fields are expensive to provide and maintain. Cricket is an obvious casualty if the fields aren't mown or the wickets prepared or if the sports grounds are sold off for a profit. The squeeze on local authority budgets inevitably hits sport and physical education and given the practical realities of the situation, sport would not be the first priority if there were a modest easement.

The ideological factors are rather different. The teachers' pay dispute has, of course, had its own consequences; there may well be a continuing reluctance of teachers to undertake voluntary activities with regard to school teams or coaching. But the move away from traditional sports has also been encouraged by a wholly admirable emphasis on sport as part of healthy living. Sport-for-all and similar movements aimed at positive health rather than high performance are clearly important elements in a more generalized campaign of preventive medicine against heart disease and avoidable illness.

All this tends to encourage sporting and leisure activities which displace the traditional games and

emphasize participation rather than skill. But the sport-for-all concept need not be inconsistent with coaching and excellence. There is no necessary dichotomy between participation and competition. The schools can – and should – keep both ideals in play. It was absurd to go overboard on representative teams and fanatical competition; and it would be equally absurd now to abandon the challenges and the rewards of keen competition in many fields.

So what is to be made of the 1960-ish ideology which prompts ageing PE organizers to decry traditional forms of sporting competition on the basis of value-judgements which are wildly at odds with those of the society the schools exist to serve? Last weekend, London TV viewers were treated to a comprehensive school where pupils engaged in stool-ball, a primitive fore-runner of cricket played with a soft ball which, *The Times* man said, "allows both sexes to play and is not competitive". Viewers must have reflected that one thing is fairly certain: the West Indian pace attack was not reared on stool-ball and stool-ball is not going to help England find a quick bowler.

How widespread is the anti-competition philosophy which has taken a grip of sections of the PE establishment? The question is important – not so much in relation to sport as to education in general. If, however, the schools are not going to serve as nurseries of sporting talent, and if this country wants to produce its champions and representative winners, then it will have to be done in the youth clubs, and the youth sections of adult sports clubs which otherwise will wither and die. Unfortunately, the whole trend in youth work seems to be towards political and social activity rather than sport. Maybe what is needed is an imaginative package from the Manpower Services Commission. Why not? After all, sport is an important part of the leisure industry.

Or does it simply not matter because it's all only a game? Perhaps it doesn't matter if England cannot produce a reasonable cricket team; it doesn't matter if the English counties have to be propped up by players from the West Indies, the Indian sub-continent and Southern Africa; it doesn't matter if no Briton can get anywhere near the top in tennis without a sports scholarship to an American university. Perhaps it doesn't matter, but don't try telling that to the exasperated public.

COMMENT

HMIs press soft pedal

On the face of it, you could hardly find a better contemporary instance of the *trahison des clercs* than the HMI response (page 00) to the teaching profession's response to that contentious little pamphlet *English from 5 to 16*.

"Bring back grammar, say inspectors" was our own headline at the time, and a not inappropriate one at that. Sixteen-year-olds were to know the functions and names of all the main parts of speech, and to be able to distinguish between sentence, clause and phrase in what they wrote. Eleven-year-olds were to understand "subject" and "object", and the use of tenses.

This was, of course, only one section of a manifesto concerned with broad pedagogical issues, but it was the one expected to draw the flak.

To juxtapose the "objectives" section in the original version with its correlate in the new is to point up a sickening contrast. For "should be able to" substitute "should have been offered a substantial experience of"; for clarity and succinctness substitute *passim* a cringing verbosity.

Out goes: "Have some ability to adjust the form, content and style of writing to the nature of the task and the needs of the reader". In comes: "Most children at this age might be assisted to begin to take some explicit account of the need to vary their writing according to the purpose, context and audience."

Moreover, "the continuation of lively, supportive and purposeful teaching should also have assisted pupils to begin to appreciate the place of writing in helping them to fix and create meaning for themselves". The original list of objectives may have been arguable, but at least Sir Ernest Gowers couldn't have faulted it (much) for clarity. Plain words the new lot certainly aren't.

But perhaps HMI are not so stupid; perhaps behind the waffle and truisms there lurks a purpose. In their intelligent commentary on the 913 responses they received they stress repeatedly the teachers' fear of centralization and mistrust of any externally imposed yardsticks. They observe that the replies they got immediately after the initial launch were markedly more strident than those which came at a more leisurely pace. They suggest that many were implicitly directed at the vigorous line taken by Fleet Street. HMI also stress the importance of consensus. The profession took fright, and had to be calmed. The importance of linguistic competence and basic grammar, however, remains. The message may now be more obscure but it is still there for anyone prepared to receive it.

PGCE on Scale 1 pay

Stories in this week's *TES* about the recruitment of teachers (page 6) highlight difficulties in attracting various categories of teachers – notably primary and secondary school teachers – to

authorities comment on the time it is taking to fill some small primary headships where pupil numbers are falling and this affects the salaries which are offered to new heads.

There is no doubt that many authorities are finding they have to expend more effort to fill their vacancies. Teachers are leaving in larger numbers for other jobs in the aftermath of the long pay dispute and more jobs have had to be reclassified. This is made worse (and more expensive) in those authorities which have chosen to penalise their schools by a political decision to boycott the bulging advertising columns of *The TES*.

It is especially difficult to fill jobs in areas such as Greater London where house prices have rocketed. High house prices mean newcomers are faced with impossible mortgages, and teachers already in post are the more tempted to consider early retirement cushioned by the profits on the sale of a house.

As Mr Baker brings out his own package of plans for recruitment to shortage subject posts, Surrey has been putting the finishing touches to its plan to recruit early-retiring science, mathematics, technology and business studies graduates and offer them a Scale 1 teacher's salary while they go through a post graduate certificate of education course.

Surrey looks like reaping the benefits of being quick off the mark. It is one of the few authorities which have made sure that all the relevant facts about the county's shortage subject staffing have been properly collected and analysed. Every candidate for the Surrey scheme will spend three weeks in schools in September, getting a taste

of the real thing before the point of final commitment. Present omens are good.

Mr Baker tries to do more than wring his hands but we've been over this ground so often and to such little effect that it's difficult for anyone to find anything new to say. Careers guidance, conversion courses, courses for mature entrants, up-grading of qualifications, re-entry courses, consultancy arrangements with industrial firms like GEC, the electrical engineering giant – all can make a contribution but they don't add up to anything which holds out the prospect of an adequate supply.

As for specialist pay differentials no doubt these will exercise the ACAS negotiations. Mr Baker may have to invent a special reward system of his own. But the notion of "collegiality" is not a gimmick invented by the unions: it is a true recognition that a science teacher is a teacher first and a teacher of science only second. If being a teacher is a low-grade occupation, nobody is going to want to be a teacher of science with or without a bonus.

no comment

Treasury ministers were impressed by the favourable public reaction to the announcement last month by Mr Kenneth Baker, Education Secretary, of £20m extra for the General Certificate of Secondary Education... Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, apparently remarked: "That's what Kenneth was sent there to do, to make a lot out of a little."

Peter Riddell in *The Financial Times*, June 12

Second opinion

Fighting racism isn't easy

The Two Kingdoms – the report Jocelyn Barrow's committee on secondary education in Brent published last week – has messages not only for living and working in the borough for all those concerned with educational dilemmas. It also presents a stark contrast with a poor, black, housed and largely black area, presents in microcosm the most serious problems facing the education system in Britain today.

The report reflects the real anxieties of dissatisfied parents, a substantial section of alienated people, critical raters, a disaffected and defensive teaching staff, frustrated officers and a well-tuned authority that in the past neither understood the real nature of the problem nor invested its resources wisely to deal with it.

The report's most controversial aspect is its analysis of the racism endemic in our society and in education. The identification of its manifestations and how to overcome them go further than the *Sumner* recommendations. This may make it a useful reading for teachers and school trustees who wish nothing but good for those in their charge.

Listening to the young people of the borough and their parents was painful; more painful still in the day experience in the schools. wonder that, cynical and alienated, many have lost all confidence in the system and its promises. To win their confidence is the authority's major task.

Cynetic remedies are inadequate. Inducing guilt feelings in teachers and the administration is not enough. A fundamental change to prevent or at least limit the impact of racism is called for. Irrespective of individual bias or prejudice, active participation in the process of change is the real answer.

Multicultural education, therefore, cannot be a question of cultural additives or marginal accretions to the traditional curriculum. The curriculum requires radical rethinking – not only in content but much more in orientation, practice and process.

But parents, especially black parents, are understandably angry about innovation that may seem to imply that they or their children are the problem and not the system itself. The report's own curriculum proposals are readily accessible to many who are die-class parents, have to cross a cultural divide to find acceptance among other communities.

The report envisages a partnership that takes account of the knowledge and experience of parents and the community as well as the expectations of teachers. Curricular innovation cannot be presented in a black and white operation nor as a dictate. A process of dialogue that involves parents, teachers, careful identification of needs, agreement about procedure, learning, conviction and action, should be the way forward.

This was the message of the Committee. Differently phrased, the central message of *Sumner* is the same. The worsening educational position, the coming of the new education minister of state, the implications of the new education act and the running sore of racism are more urgent than ever. The more methodological, ideological or theoretical controversy this report engenders, its basic thrust is ignored at the nation's peril.

Fred Flower was a member of the Barrow Committee. He is a principal of Kingsway Primary School, London.

Talks on teachers' pay and conditions are reaching a crucial stage. James Meikle reports

Baker blamed for slow progress of Acas talks

The Government has been accused of winking attempts to set up new negotiating machinery for teachers' pay and conditions.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers is blaming Mr Kenneth Baker, Education Secretary, for lack of progress on the issue at the current Acas-inspired talks.

Mr Bill Kendall, the independent chairman of the working group at Acas, has also called late contributions from the DES unhelpful and negative.

The Government is unlikely to change the arrangements unless it sees more chance of pay and conditions settlements being delivered without industrial action, being "affordable" in national terms, and supporting what it sees as effective management.

The NAS/UTW believes there could have been some agreement on replacing the much-criticized existing machinery for negotiating pay and conditions.

However, the National Union of Teachers remains firmly opposed to changes and the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association has also expressed reservations.

The local authorities have suggested a non-statutory national joint council (NJC) to link pay and conditions. The NAS/UTW had suggested adopting a further education model in which a joint council would deal formally with conditions and informally with pay, for which formal ratification would still have to go to Burnham.

The Government regards the case for a NJC as unconvincing, although it is willing to explore third party arrangements such as a standing committee.

Mr Nigel de Gruchy, NAS/UTW deputy general secretary, said: "It is the Secretary of State who has wrecked the future negotiating machinery working group. It was one of the few opportunities to adopt a consensus approach and get somewhere."

Talks in other groups on salary structure and "duties, responsibilities and limits" achieved little agreement, though there was accord on the fact that employers and teachers met in full formal session under the supervision of

an independent panel on Wednesday. The talks were adjourned until a two-day meeting for key figures at Coventry at the end of the month.

Mr Malcolm Horne, junior vice-president of the NUT, said "alarm bells are ringing" because employers have made no commitments.

"They have given no indications on salary levels, refused to discuss a national agreement on class-size and resolutely opposed non-contact time for teachers. There can be no agreement on that basis," he said.

Meanwhile, teachers in Liverpool secondary schools are set to get local contracts that will limit class sizes and guarantee time off for marking and preparation of lessons.

The NUT hopes the deal will serve as a model for national negotiations on conditions. The contracts specify a maximum class size of 30 and set aside a minimum 12.5 per cent of the school week as "non-contact" time.

In addition, new collective local agreements will ensure that the average non-contact time per school will be 22 per cent, the higher figure taking into account many of the non-teaching responsibilities of senior staff. Heads will not be counted as teaching staff.

Staffing deals have also been agreed at one teacher to 20 pupils in years one to four of secondary schools, one to 17 in year five, and one to 12 in the sixth form.

But the most far-reaching move could prove to be a new structured permanent supply teaching force of 122 staff, including many senior posts, which will help out in shortage subject areas, and providing cover for absent teachers.

● Selective strikes by the NUT returned to Humberstone this week where the county council is still docking pay of about £2.60 a time for "no cover" industrial action started during the national pay campaign.

● The Inner London Education Authority will start docking pay for teachers who refuse to cover for absent colleagues if the present talks and conditions break down. Thousands of pupils are still being sent home from schools in the capital because no teachers are available.

Appraisal 'safeguards'

By Biddy Passmore

The Government is to amend the Education Bill so no scheme of teacher appraisal can be imposed by ministers without first consulting teachers and their local authority employers.

The concession, announced on Tuesday by Mr Chris Patten, the education minister of state, was hailed as a victory for common sense by Mr Giles Radice, Labour's education spokesman.

The apparent climbdown has sent a soothing signal to teacher and local authority representatives who started negotiations on a future salary and career structure at Acas on Wednesday.

But it means little because an appraisal scheme could not be introduced without consultation anyway. Moreover, the amendment will simply require consultation and will not give teachers or employers a veto.

Another Government concession

College and polytechnic lecturers voted last weekend to accept the 5.5 per cent pay deal similar to that offered to school teachers. The deal is backdated to April 1 and gives the lowest paid an increase of £519

which is more than the percentage figure. However, the national council of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education effectively tied the hands of their negotiators

NEWS



Pentathlete: Ed Egan, 15-year-old-winner of the modern pentathlon at an international youth tournament in Sweden last week shows off the gear needed for this five-event contest. Ed, a pupil at St Joseph's Academy, Lewisham, London, ran 2000 metres cross-country, swam 200 metres, scored well in the target pistol shooting and in the épée fencing defeated 50 competitors. Riding was omitted on this occasion.

ILEA plans junior Olympics

by Bert Lodge

The Inner London Education Authority, anxious to dispel the image of being against competitive sport, is planning an international pupil Olympics for 1988.

Although still in the planning, it has already been decided the range of events will be as wide as possible, to cater for all talents, with boys and girls provided for equally.

"We have been tarred with this brush of not believing in competitive sport," Ms Nina Clarke, Labour group press officer, said. "The reality is we have sponsored more football competitions than ever before in this city. We also think it would be a morale booster for our sport and PE teachers."

The ruling Labour group hopes to mount the festival in two stages, the first next year confined to the authority's 1000 schools, then extended the following year to inter-city range possibly with teams from abroad.

"Competitive it will certainly be but not at the expense of individual children who may not be good at one particular game," Ms Clarke said. "Apart from correcting this false image we have it will be of tremendous educational value."

Mrs Carol Rowbottom, ILEA's chief inspector for PE, said last week on television that no competitive team sports should be played during school-time.

Mr Harry Greenway, Conservative MP for Baling North, condemned in the Commons on Tuesday certain London education authorities for their rejection of team games. He asked if the Government would consider using the Education (Grants and Awards) Acts to stimulate cricket, rugby and soccer and other team games in London schools.

In future talks on structure, both sides are committed to producing an agreement on structural reforms by the end of October when, they hope, more money will be offered, in return, by the Government.

Standards 'more than money'

by Mike Durham

Labour had to accept that standards in schools were not just a matter of money. Shadow Education Secretary Mr Giles Radice said in a major policy statement in Swansea this week.

He called for radical changes in the curriculum, examination systems, teacher training and the degree of parents' involvement in schools, to raise school standards across the board.

Progressives had to "work to make the standards issue their own". In the past Labour had allowed the question of standards in schools to become "the watchword of the right".

Mr Radice called for a coherent and balanced curriculum, with a common curriculum in the first three years of secondary school and a core curriculum in the fourth and fifth years.

The core curriculum would include technical education to break the notion that it was a second class subject, and encourage girls to continue with subjects they would otherwise drop.

He backed moves towards modular teaching, with pupils tackling subjects in six to eight week units, the replacement of A levels with less specialised examinations and an integrated system of vocational and academic qualifications.

Mr Radice said teachers had to increase their expectations of what pupils could achieve and called on the Government to contribute to a better teaching force by improving teacher training.

Kingston to drop 11-plus

Kingston-on-Thames, one of the last selective L.E.A.s left in the country, voted narrowly this week to end the 11-plus and adopt a comprehensive system. A working party is to report back to the education committee in October.

The authority became Alliance controlled with Labour support in local government elections in May. Of the two grammar schools one, Tiffin Boys School, is voluntary controlled and the other, Tiffin Girls, is a county school.

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Maths report gathers dust

Continued from page 1

as many pupils – 12 per cent of the age group – taking maths at this level.

A paper prepared by NFER officials in 1984 provides some explanations for the apparently poor English and Welsh performance in the early secondary years.

It points out that, although 37 "anchor items" were considered to be common to the two surveys, there had in fact been changes in 12 of them. As items become out of date the expectation must be for technical reasons that the results will be worse.

The 1981 tests were carried out three months earlier in the year than the 1984 tests, the paper points out, meaning that pupils were not only less mature but also had learnt less and were not in "examination trim".

It also suggests that the anchor items had become less representative of the curriculum since 1984. "At the time of the first survey, little modern mathematics was taught while only

The countries where comparable results could be obtained for 1984 and 1981 were England and Wales, Finland, France, The Netherlands, Japan, Scotland, Israel, Sweden, Flemish Belgium, and the United States.

about one third of schools today teaches purely traditional courses", it says.

This change was sharply criticized this week by Professor Sir Prais of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

He told *The TES*: "What has happened in our syllabus is that the formalization of mathematics – the concentration on modern maths – has been detrimental to our performance in the bottom half of the ability range. The Japanese haven't done it and they've done very nicely thank you."

Modern maths had been "shoved" into the syllabus for middle and low attainers without any thought, he said. A further and related explanation for the poor English performance appears to be provided by the international survey itself. This counted the number of items taught in each grade. It found that England and Wales, and other countries with a British heritage like New Zealand, taught a far wider range of mathematics in junior secondary schools than other countries.

RADIO COMMERCIAL COMPETITION.

Listed below are the results of the radio commercial competition sponsored by The Building Societies Association, the Banking Information Service and the Unit Trust Association to mark Industry Year.

OVERALL WINNER
Newstead Wood School for Girls, Avebury Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9SA.

IST PRIZE
£500 worth of audio/video equipment plus a 2 day visit to London to have the winning script produced. A tour of the city institutions will be followed by dinner at The Savoy and a trip to the theatre.

REGIONAL WINNERS
Clacton County High School, Walton Road, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.
The Becket School, Wilford Lane, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QY.
Bentley Wood High School, Bridges Road, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 3AA.

George Stephenson High School, Southgate, Killingworth, Tyne and Wear NE12 0SA.
The College of Business Studies, Brunswick Street, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT2 7GX.
Our Lady of Fatima, 14 Colquitt Street, Liverpool L1 4DE.
St. Ninian's High School, St. Ninian's, Douglas, Isle of Man.
Neville Lovett School, St. Anne's Grove, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 1FF.
Paignton College, Waterleat Road, Paignton TQ3 3UQ.
Holyhead Comprehensive, Alderley Terrace, Holyhead, Gwynedd, Wales LL65 1NP.
Kidderminster College of FE, Hoo Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY10 1LY.
North Ossett High School, Gawthorpe Lane, Gawthorpe, Ossett, nr Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF5 9BS.

PRIZES
Each regional winner receives £500 worth of audio/video equipment.



PLATFORM

The Government is proposing to make fundamental changes to the funding and organization of in-service training – David Keast reports on how local authorities see the future of INSET

A peek in the crystal ball

Provided that the Education Bill goes through as planned, the new arrangements for funding teachers' in-service training are due to go into operation from April 1987, along with changes in the ways in which INSET is planned, implemented and evaluated.

Although the 1984 report by the Advisory Committee on the Supply and Education of Teachers recommended changes in INSET it was not until the publication of *Better Schools* in March 1985 that there was any indication that changes would actually materialize.

Suddenly the time-span had shortened. A draft circular in June setting out the new arrangements required local education authorities to submit revised INSET proposals by October.

All the indicators point to L.e.a.s having substantial control over the money available for teachers' in-service. But the money has to be applied for and L.e.a.s will have to demonstrate that they have taken into account the needs of schools as expressed by teachers.

At a national INSET conference held at Exeter in January 1986 it was clear that patterns were developing in the ways L.e.a.s were anticipating the new arrangements. In March a questionnaire was sent to L.e.a.s with a view to recording and reporting moves and anticipated changes. This article reports the survey. The information is based on data from 38 questionnaires returned by local authority officials with responsibility for INSET.

The survey is analogous to instantaneous photography in that the focus is not going to be perfect but the processing and printing is swift. It was intended to obtain information on:

- L.e.a. mechanisms for managing the proposed INSET developments
 - the changes in the availability of INSET anticipated by L.e.a.s.
- Managing the INSET developments: It was pointed out in the ACSET report that "a number" of L.e.a.s have

found INSET committees to be useful. It was suggested that others might find it worthwhile to establish such committees.

Most of the 38 L.e.a.s reported having a committee to deal with INSET. Only five (13 per cent) did not have an established committee but they said one was being set up. Sixteen (42 per cent) have decided that there is a need for additional INSET committees to manage the proposed arrangements. While the survey did not yield data on the composition, status or function of committees, L.e.a.s have at least developed, or are developing, an INSET committee structure.

Committees then have been established but their deliberations and actions could have been impeded by lack of information. The usual dissemination strategies for central (and other) innovations are (a) conferences for L.e.a. representatives and/or (b) letters or circulars to L.e.a.s. The DES organized regional conferences to inform L.e.a. representatives of developments. Other conferences were also organized to gain and share information about the new arrangements.

Twenty-nine respondents (76 per cent) had been able to attend such a conference. Twenty (53 per cent) indicated that the most helpful source of information on the new arrangements had been papers from the DES.

The only comprehensive DES statements were in the two position papers: one on the funding arrangements for staff development in FE, the other on the specific grant for the in-service education and training of teachers. These papers had a peculiar circulation

and status. They were circulated to "L.e.a.s and other bodies", and were not intended to be a formal statement of policy. Nor was their circulation intended as a consultation exercise.

One of the key features of the new arrangements is the expectation that L.e.a.s will consult schools about their INSET and take schools' stated needs into account when drawing up the October submission. At the end of March 1986, 27 L.e.a.s (71 per cent) had informed schools of the new arrangements, with 21 L.e.a.s (55 per cent) holding special conferences to explain possible developments.

The obvious deduction here is that if a third of the L.e.a.s in the survey had not even informed schools of the new

Table 1 INSET at 4% level	
Training opportunities will increase	63%
will remain the same	21%
will decrease	13%
No information	3%

arrangements there must be serious doubts as to those L.e.a.s' ability to consult schools about their INSET needs.

Of the 27 L.e.a.s informing schools of the new arrangements, 78 per cent had encouraged headteachers to identify at least one member of staff who could take responsibility for staff development.

Anticipated changes: It has not been possible for the DES to be precise about the scale of the new funding.

Table 2 Anticipated changes in the mode of teacher release L.e.a.s				
	More	Fewer	Same	Unknown
Year secondments	10	58	26	6
Term secondments	47	20	26	7
Day release	55	2	36	7

Table 3 Anticipated changes in the provision of INSET				
	More	Less	Same	Unknown
Organizer	65%	0	15%	20%
L.e.a.	41%	39%	7%	13%
Teachers' centres	39%	22%	13%	26%
Schools	76%	0	14%	10%

(Two L.e.a.s were unable to make productions).

NEWS

Inspectors back down on English demands

HMI has abandoned its call for more concentration on grammar in English teaching after criticism of its 1984 document, *English from 5 to 16*. This week it published a report outlining the responses to its original paper which suggests instead that there should be a national inquiry to set an agenda for the teaching of English. Bert Lodge reports

HM Inspectors have retreated from the position they advanced two years ago that pupils should know more about the English language.

In the face of a hostile reception from the majority of 913 responses to their 1984 document *English from 5-16 Curriculum Matters 1*, the Inspectors have abandoned their call for school leavers to be able to name the main parts of speech, punctuate a sentence and distinguish a clause from a phrase.

In the sequel to the document published this week, which largely summarizes the responses concluding with a revised list of objectives and expectations, specific requirements – such as 11-year-olds knowing the difference between a vowel and a consonant and a subject and an object – are gone.

Instead, the authors resort to such generalizations as "simple proof-reading and editing will have become more habitual" or "Sentence control should have progressed to encompass an increased repertoire of patterns."

And obviously stunned by the range of objections to their original prescriptions, the Inspectors suggest a national inquiry might be necessary to "settle an agenda."

More than two-thirds of the responses were from schools. They conveyed "strong hostility to formal grammatical analysis" and "deep divisions upon matters of principle, practice and content."

While there were quite widespread expressions by teachers of a willingness to know more about language themselves, there were few suggestions about what they or their pupils might be taught.

It was the setting out of objectives related to what could be expected from children at certain ages which brought most dissent. Some opposed statements of objectives in any form and many more feared it was a step along the road to centralization – especially when the prescriptions were issuing from HMI or the Department of Education and Science.

But most responses were critical of the suggested objectives. Most said they were too demanding and did not take account of the widely varying development rates of individual pupils. Some quoted Bullock's *A Language for Life* which concluded: "It is certainly unrealistic to attempt to impart a competence to given age points."

The Inspectors point out that related objectives are characteristic of the *Curriculum Matters* series, running to six titles with others in need. And in unusually resolute defence they say: "It is hard to defend involvement in education to argue grounds of principle against what might be achieved by pupils at key points in their education."

Then they concede: "Expectations might be redrawn in more precise terms." That is what they have done. Also widely rejected was the proposal for periodic testing. "Assessment imposed national monitoring of status which used simplistic and tests was envisaged and deep trust." It emerged that such tests would mine the curriculum – and in a mechanistic fashion.

The treatment of the original document by the press is referred to by Inspectors as "a campaign that should have reduced 'known language' to 'grammar'."

English from 5 to 16: the new Curriculum Matters 1, DES Publications, Despatch Centre, Ladbroke Grove, London W2 5LH.

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With the sudden departure of Adrian Parsons from Brent, L.e.a. are considering taking legal action over a charge by black pressure groups that they are "European supremacists".

The accusations follow a row over the education department's handling of bids for Section 11 money to appoint black teachers, and a damning report to the education committee by another race relations adviser.

Brent L.e.a. has now set up an internal inquiry into the Section 11 funding and ordered that 60 new teaching posts must be re-advertised to include applications from white as well as black candidates.

The principal adviser, Mr Robin Richardson, and an education officer (schools), Mr Gordon Mott, are named in a document widely circulated to councillors by Brent Black Alliance, Brent Black People's Association, and Brent Against White Supremacy.

The paper accuses them of wittingly or unwittingly sabotaging effective anti-racist policies. It calls Mr Richardson an "arch European supremacist" and calls for both officers to be sacked "before they ruin the lives of any more of our children".

However, supporters of Mr Richardson have expressed surprise at the charge and point to his track record as a race relations adviser.

Told of the accusation, Mr Peter Newsam, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, said: "I know Robin Richardson as someone who fought for a highly effective race relations policy in Berkshire. To accuse him of prejudice against black people seems to me fantastic."

The affair is the result of attempts by Brent – in common with many other councils – to draw up new guidelines for the use of Section 11 money, which is dispensed by the Home Office for services for the black community.

Brent has prepared a bid for funding for 182 teachers, to be employed in schools as curriculum development teachers on top of normal staffing. Agreement for the first 60 teachers was reached with the Home Office last week.

The jobs have been advertised, but under a section of the Race Relations Act only black or ethnic teachers were invited to reply. Fewer than 20 replies had been received at the end of June. The posts are due to start in December.

This week, an outspoken report to the education committee by its own race relations adviser Miss Soona Engineer accused the education department of mishandling the affair. Miss Engineer complained that she had not been consulted, there was not enough planning and complaints had been ignored. The report was discussed at the education committee on Monday.

Miss Engineer claimed that advertisements for the 60 posts – specifying

A row over the way Brent's anti-racist policies are being implemented has surfaced just as the new Labour group has published the results of an inquiry into its secondary schools. Diane Spencer and Mike Durham report.

Court threat on race 'sabotage' claim

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Miss Engineer claimed that advertisements for the 60 posts – specifying

black teachers – had not been drawn up according to usual procedures. The Section 11 policy was discredited and there had been unnecessary delays, she said.

Many black groups now believe that appointing black teachers to specific posts is counter-productive and "tokenistic". Brent Black Teachers Collective has called for the posts to be open to black and white candidates.

This week Brent's Labour education chairman, Mr Ron Anderson, said: "The only recommendation in Miss Engineer's report that we accept is that we should no longer advertise only for black teachers."

"The major criticism was an accusation of racism in the education department. We have got to meet that criticism very seriously and that is why we have instituted an inquiry." The inquiry, to include an opposition councillor, will be set up next week.

Mr Arthur Steel, Conservative spokesman, criticized the way Miss Engineer had made the report. He said: "It is unprecedented for one officer to put out a report attacking others without taking it up with them first."

If the race adviser had seen back in April that something was going wrong – as she claims – she should have taken it up then." Mr Steel welcomed the inquiry.

He dismissed the black pressure groups' document about Mr Richardson as "nonsense".

Mr Richardson, who moved to Brent from Berkshire last year, declined to comment.

An independent report into last autumn's Broadwater Farm riot has called for urgent action to implement Haringey's anti-racist stance. Blacks need better deal from education system

by Diane Spencer

The education system has failed young black people, says the report of the independent inquiry into last October's disturbances on the Broadwater Farm Estate in North London.

The inquiry team, led by Lord Gifford, QC, received reports and talked to staff at nearby colleges, schools and the adult education institute. The material showed that many school leavers on the estate were "resentful of formal education and schooling because of their past school experiences".

Teachers said black children were as intelligent and creative as whites but they left school with poor literacy in written English and with little understanding of the formal techniques and application of scientific knowledge, says the report.

The six-strong team noted a lower than average take-up of places in further education compared with other areas, and a high drop-out rate.

The team called for urgent action which would make a reality of the council's firm anti-racist position. These should include:

- A thorough scrutiny of the curriculum to eradicate racist bias from school studies;
- A multicultural and anti-racist approach;
- In-service training of teachers in

countering racism;

● A commitment to recruiting blacks as teachers and staff at all levels;

● Ethnic monitoring of staff.

The council has already pledged to implement recommendations made to it by the inquiry team.

Haringey council decided to set up an independent inquiry into the disturbances when the Home Office declined to conduct a public one.

Last February Lord Gifford was asked to chair a team which included Mr Randolph Prime, a teacher at Norwood Comprehensive School for girls who helped to set up London's first school for black children; Ms Dorothy Kuye, a former principal race relations adviser in Haringey; two clergymen, Canon Sebastian Charles of Westminster Abbey and the Right Reverend Philip Harvey, auxiliary bishop of Westminster; and Dr Paul Corrigan, former head of applied social studies at the Polytechnic of North London.

The *Broadwater Farm Inquiry*. Report of the independent inquiry into disturbances of October 1985 at the Broadwater Farm Estate, Tottenham, chaired by Lord Gifford, available from the Civic Centre, Wood Green, London N22, or Tottenham Town Hall, High Road, London N15.

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The six-strong team noted a lower than average take-up of places in further education compared with other areas, and a high drop-out rate.

The team called for urgent action which would make a reality of the council's firm anti-racist position. These should include:

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- A multicultural and anti-racist approach;
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(173)

NEWS

Surrey launch industry graduates drive

Surrey education officers today start a crash programme of enticing people from industry into the classrooms.

The authority wants to pay people in middle age or nearing retirement who are qualified in maths, physics, technology and business studies to retrain for a late second career in teaching.

Advertisements for the mature graduates scheme were aimed mainly at people between 40 and 53 who may have decided to leave industry and commerce early, or been made redundant.

But several younger men and women with seemingly secure jobs have also shown an interest.

About 70 people had made enquiries by the beginning of this week but some were not considered suitably qualified.

The upper age limit was imposed to make sure the authority "gets a good five years" out of those who feel they want to go ahead with the scheme after a rigorous induction period.

Today's consultation will be followed by three days in schools next week. Another interview will follow over the holidays and in September candidates will spend three weeks in schools, paid at supply teacher rates, before deciding whether to commit themselves to undertaking PGCE courses from October to June.

Those that do will then be paid Scale 1 teaching rates at college before returning to the schools next summer.

Surrey initiated the scheme after finding that many of their teachers in shortage areas did not have their first qualification in that subject and the problem was likely to get worse as those teachers in post neared retirement.

The authority has 544 maths posts in its 61 secondary schools and 17 of those (22 per cent) are filled by teachers for whom maths was not the main specialism in training. Sixty-nine of the teachers are over 50 and there are still 12 unfilled vacancies.

The comparable figures for physics are 236 posts, 64 (27 per cent) non-specialists, 20 teachers over 50 and 10 unfilled vacancies; craft, design and technology, 172 posts, 61 (36 per cent) non-specialists, 22 over 50, and eight unfilled vacancies; business studies or similar, 61 posts, 44 (73 per cent), non-specialists, two over 50 and seven unfilled vacancies.

Mr Anthony Rees, assistant education officer responsible for personnel, said the response was "very exciting".

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TES reporters investigate the growing crisis in the classrooms over the national shortage of teachers



Headhunting headaches for small primaries

by James Melkle

Some local authorities are facing another recruitment crisis - for the headships of small primary schools.

Several posts are having to be re-advertised because they are failing to attract even enough candidates to warrant a shortlist.

Deputies at larger schools are increasingly reluctant to apply for the top job because they may have to take a pay cut or only gain a small rise in salary.

The biggest problem is for schools with under 250 pupils, and the number

of these has grown rapidly with the decline in the child population.

Kent County Council is having to advertise headships up to four times and Ealing five times to get shortlists worth considering.

Mrs Jeanne Leeke, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the crisis was worrying. "Many people cannot afford to drop money for status of headship."

"There is a real shortage of trained nursery and infant teachers too and training colleges are finding it difficult

to get really experienced teachers to take up lectureships in these particular areas."

Suffolk is reporting difficulties in recruiting infant and reception teachers for September, particularly in the Ipswich area, though it says that this may only be a temporary phenomenon.

The Inner London Education Authority has also had difficulty in primary schools as the number of young children begins to rise again.

Government pressed to bring in relief package

by Mike Durham

Chief education officers will shortly call for a package of "practical" measures from the Government to deal with the chronic shortage of teachers of science, maths and technology.

The Society of Education Officers will urge swift action to forge links with industry, by offering science teachers "holiday consultancies" with local firms and giving conversion courses to industrial employees.

At the same time the SEO will demand long-term solutions to the crisis, to ensure a future pool of science and technology graduates to enter teaching, fed by an even greater pool of post-16 students.

The proposals - expected within two weeks - follow a joint study with the DES, the Department of Trade and Industry and a group of industrialists into technology, staffing and the curriculum in school science.

The SEO's conclusions are expected to match closely the final draft of the DES's own document on teacher shortages, published this week.

Chief officers were told at the weekend that in the present situation

there was only a slim chance of filling postgraduate training places, let alone the increased number in the 1990s.

Research carried out for the SEO suggested that applications for university places in maths this year were 15 per cent down on 1985, 13 per cent down in electrical engineering, 12 per cent down in computing and 10 per cent down in physics.

Passes in O and A level physics appeared to have dropped significantly between 1982 and 1985, although passes in mathematics seemed to be about the same.

Mr Reg Hartles, chief education officer in Ealing and chairman of the SEO's industry committee, said officers were most concerned with reducing "wastage" among science teachers and forging closer links between schools and industry.

The SEO is keen to make proposals that can be acted on quickly, but is also concerned to seek long-term solutions to the problem of science teaching which might especially attract girls into science subjects.

Conference report - page 11

Crisis is already here, says CEO

by Mark Jackson

It is already too late to avert a crisis over the shortage of teachers, a chief education officer warned this week.

Mr Reg Hartles, Ealing CEO, told the National Education and Training Conference in Birmingham that the shortage of maths, physics and technology teachers was rapidly getting worse, with many leaving for jobs in industry and fewer students entering teacher training in these subjects.

"Unless the trend can be reversed very quickly that crisis is going to become of enormous proportions; and even if we do successfully take some urgent steps the crisis is still going to be with us."

That was because in the early 1990s, when pupil numbers would be rising, there would be a sharp decline in the number of new teachers coming out of training. "It's almost impossible at this stage to see a way round that problem," said Mr Hartles.

Seventy take the Ealing bait

At least 70 new teachers have taken the bait of an extra two months' pay and are working in Ealing before they are formally qualified.

The authority has already paid over half the 140 extra positions and middle schools announced newly-elected Labour pay summer.

Education officers went around "24 training colleges" up promising students and a student that the recruits will just expense of the late jobs due.

Many of the new staff are at schools and are being paid as unqualified teacher's rate which bring in just over £400 after deduction for July.

Those that gain the expected five months could be getting over £460 for the holiday month of August. Normally new contracts start in September.

The extra cost of the special arrangement is not yet clear. The chairman, Mr Hilary Benn, said the moment this is just a one-off quite an expensive operation.

Started recruitment very late in year, in fact after the normal deadline for teachers, so we have bulk would have to come from colleges."

Now parents of pupils in Ealing Brent schools want the authority to offer extra cash to attract new teachers.

They are urging that schools awarded more scale points and retain teachers and want a wide-ranging removal and replacement scheme for new staff coming in thorough.

There are about 85 unqualified teachers in local schools at present, some for Scale 2 or above in primaries, and a dozen in similar levels in secondaries.

Councillors have agreed to advertise and appoint unqualified teachers but have still to consider the rest of the parents' package.

Mr Mike Cann, a member of Anson and Sudbury Parents' Group, which is among the organisations pressing for the new measures, said: "We don't think the authority is moving enough urgency."

He said that only eight of the posts at Sudbury School were permanent teachers, with the rest covered by temporary appointments.

Bexley on the south-east London is considering similar salary points to schools with permanent teachers, for doing a convincing case for doing so money either to retain or attract specialist teachers. But it will not recruit a number of teachers in the next few years.

Its education chairman, Mr Sams, says there is no doubt difficulties in some key areas recognize the points change is going to solve the shortage problem. You have to have decent terms to attract more people."

The National Union of Teachers says Mr Dennis Sale, says the measures "too little, too late."

He points out that out of 10 vacancies for full-time posts in schools next year, at least seven will be for maths, physics, science, design and technology.



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SMAC SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION BY COMPUTER

PRIMARY

The Pope who put the Pope on the spot

by Graham Smith

A Cornish primary school teacher has found a new way of encouraging children to take an interest in writing letters.

Pupils at Cardew School, Redruth, now know that Neil Kinnock really does mean it when he shouts at Mrs Thatcher and that Eddy Shah has reservations about using computer technology to publish newspapers.

The 28 members of Lower Class Two, aged eight, nine and 10, wrote to famous people asking the kind of questions only children would think of. "Why do you always kiss the ground when you get off an aeroplane?" Mandy Pope, aged nine, asked the Pope. Her question had been inspired by a television comedy sketch about missing contact lenses but her "please give my love to the wife and kids" was removed by her teacher before the letter was posted.

She wrote to the Pope because of her name. Although he did not answer her question, Mandy did get a reply from the Vatican saying he would pray for her.

Neil Kinnock was asked if he really meant it when he shouted at Mrs Thatcher and if he ever got a sore throat. He replied, saying the answer to both questions was yes.

Eddy Shah was asked for advice about newspaper publishing. He suggested using bright colours but warned new technology could cause problems. "I hope your computer works better than ours does," he said.

The leader of the Social Democratic Party, David Owen, was asked if he would rather be a doctor or a Member of Parliament. He replied, saying he was quite happy to be in politics, but best of all "when I was minister for health, I was lucky enough to enjoy both worlds."

Margaret Thatcher was unable to give a personal reply but the Central Office of Information sent details of her childhood.

The Queen Mother's lady-in-waiting revealed that Her Majesty had two dogs called Georgie and Ranger. Walt Disney's cartoon character Pluto sent his life history, reporting he was now married and that, although his wife had improved his standards of personal hygiene, he was still allowed to keep the occasional flea.

Teacher Bill Morley said several boys in the class were disappointed not to have had replies from their sporting heroes. But many famous people had written back. "This is such a simple idea but the children have shown great interest in it," he said. "Suddenly letter writing has become very popular."

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NUT pushes for 'time out'

The National Union of Teachers is stepping up its campaign for primary education with a major one-day conference in London on September 30.

The union is hoping Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary, will attend the event which is expected to involve 600 delegates including members of other teacher organizations, local authority representatives, parents' groups and voluntary bodies.

Continuing pressure for primary teachers to get time out of the classroom for marking and preparation is likely to be a key issue at the conference, to be held at the Friends Meeting House, Euston Road.

Prof Sir John Tomlinson, director of the University Institute of



Material whirl: children from Thundersley junior school in South Benfleet, Essex, get to grips with the logistics of a "parachute dance" as part of the festivities at their annual fête

Geography 'disappearing from the curriculum map'

by Julia Hagedorn

Geography is being squeezed out of the primary school curriculum by the demands of other subjects, a seminar was told last week.

Mrs Wendy Morgan, head of Elmsett primary school, Suffolk, said that few schools made a feature of geographical studies. In many schools "nothing that can honestly be called geography is to be found at all."

Mrs Morgan, who was speaking at a Geographical Association seminar in Leicester, said that today's curriculum was heavily overloaded. Subjects competed with each other for space in the school day and for in-service training.

"Computers, science and mathematics dominate the course lists," she said. "No primary geography courses are offered at all, and in my area there is no geography adviser."

"My children will receive some geographical education because it comes high on my priorities," she said. "What about other teachers working in isolation without support, hemmed in by all the demands and constraints of governments, local authorities and public opinion? Will there be any geography in their primary schools, when they have met the demands of computers, science and CDT, home economics and health education?"

Mr David Lewis, HMI, whose responsibilities include geography, said that the problem was one of communicating to parents, politicians and heads that geography was a stimulating and worthwhile subject. In general, it had a low status and teachers remained unconvinced that it had something to offer.

Another Inspector, Mr Colin Richards, argued that geography - or some element of geographical studies - should feature in the curriculum every year from 5 to 16. It was not for HMI to prescribe in detail the exact scheme of work that 20,000 primary schools should follow. But, he said, if environmental studies - along with moral and political studies - were neglected, the curriculum was less vital and even irrelevant for some pupils.

Mr Richards also said that one teacher could no longer be expected to cope unaided with the huge range of subjects offered in primary schools. Sliding scales of support were needed for both the teacher and the school - ranging from better schemes of work at one end, to another teacher taking all or part of a subject at the other.

He reminded his audience that Sir Keith Joseph had promised an extra 15,000 teachers - which worked out at

three-quarters of a teacher per school. "Think what you could do with that extra bit of teacher. As an association you could follow that up and see where those teachers are."

The extra teachers were more likely to become a reality if politicians were reminded of the promise, he later told a member of the audience.

The Leicester seminar was one of several regional conferences that the Geographical Association has held on geography in the primary curriculum. A paper summing up the findings of the seminars is to be sent to Mr Kenneth Baker, the Education Secretary.

The association will argue that there is a need to promote the subject and specify what constitutes geography. It will argue that every primary child should study, among other things, the nature and workings of the natural world and man's intervention, case studies of other peoples and places, the understanding and use of maps, and relations between town and country, emphasizing their interdependence.

Geography is to be the subject of an HMI booklet in the 5 to 16 curriculum series. It is expected to appear before the end of the year and will devote more attention than is usual in this series to the primary sector.

APU urges early physics learning for girls

by Geraldine Hackett

More practical work for girls in primary schools may be the key to improving their physics at secondary school.

The latest survey by the Association of Performance Unit (APU) for girls are less able than boys to grasp concepts of physics. The gap exists at 11, is still there at 16 and not improved by 15.

But at 13, when pupils can drop physics, only one out of five chooses it, compared with three out of five for boys.

The APU's two researches, Sandra Johnson and Ms Pauline, suggest girls' weaknesses can be traced to the differences in the nature and activities of boys and girls and are more likely to be related to mechanical objects, help with maintenance and played with construction toys.

Survey data from 1984 showed while 42 per cent of 11-year-olds had played with model-making, only six per cent of girls had done so.

The researchers conclude that boys, than girls begin to form a firmer base from which to build new knowledge and understanding. Boys have a greater reservoir of physics knowledge by the age of 11, this advantage persists throughout secondary school. The root of the problem, they say, most probably lies in early socialization.

"Even when girls continue physics to first examination level, they never seem to fully overcome early knowledge disadvantage. Indeed do many of them overcome initial lack of confidence in physics."

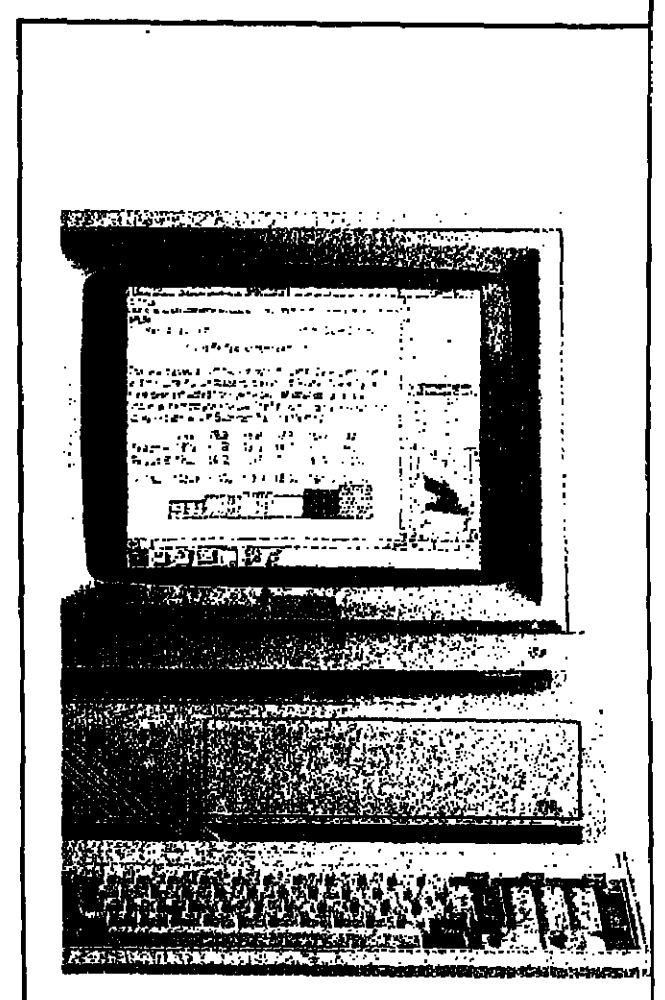
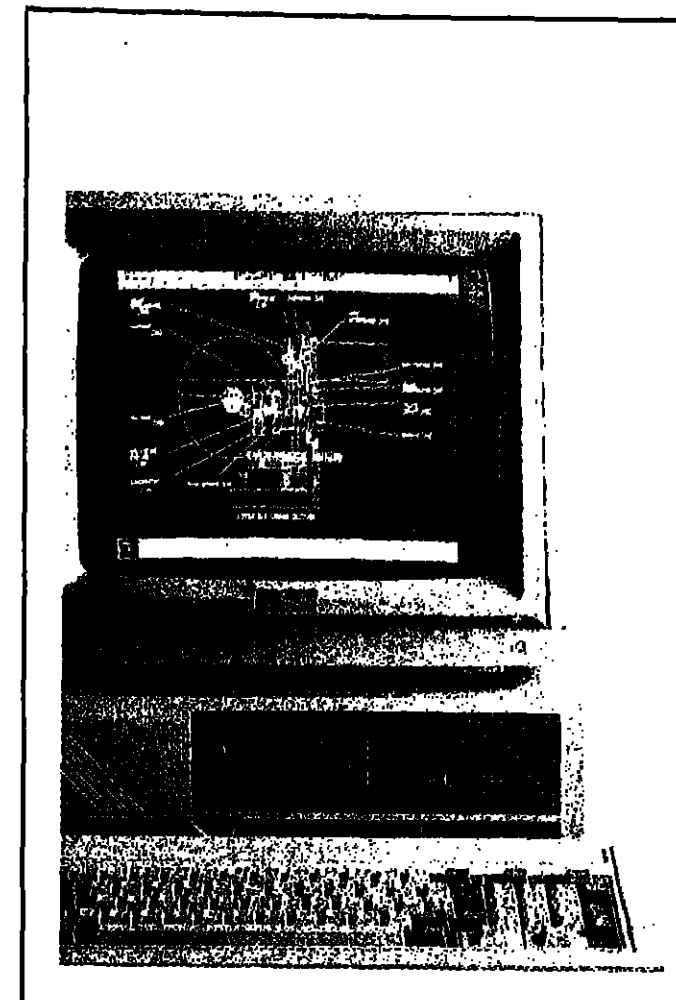
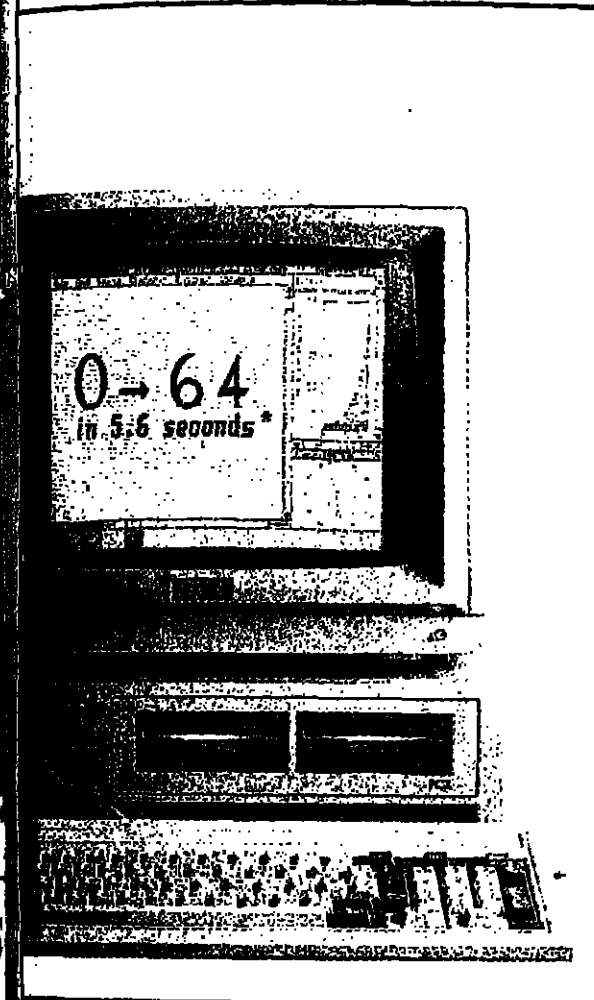
"There is, therefore, at least a need for attention to be given to compensating in the primary perhaps even infant - curriculum the early differential practical experiences of boys and girls."

Girls and Physics, APU paper, is available from the Room 477A, Department of Education and Science, Elmfield, York Road, SE1 7PP.

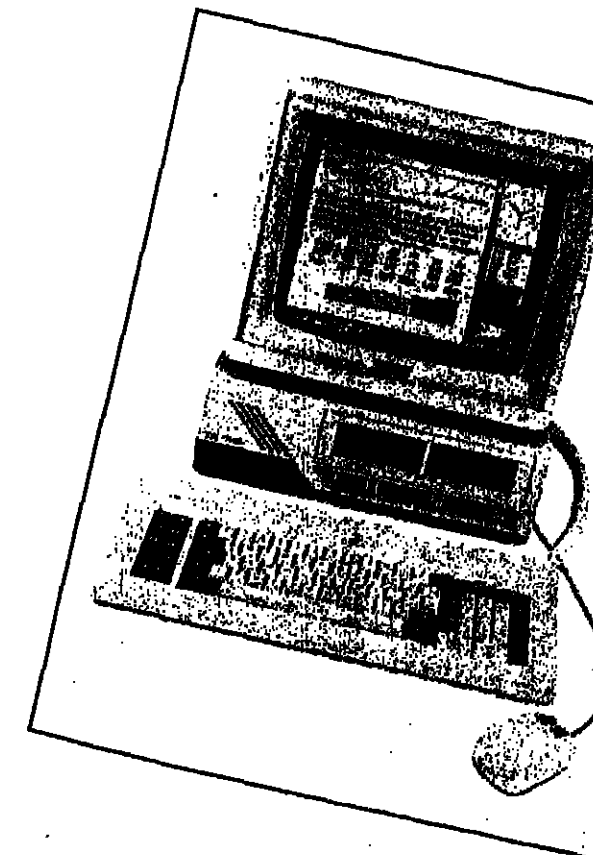
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SCHOOL TO WORK

Lord Young pledges cash for nationwide information network

Putting agents on to the high street



Lord Young

Government money for the first batch of a nationwide chain of training inquiry offices was announced by Lord Young, the Employment Secretary, on Tuesday.

High street shops and bus and rail stations, as well as colleges and libraries, are to be appointed as agents to give advice on training to people who want to know how to improve their skills.

The agents will help inquirers to use computer terminals linked to information networks about both local courses and national provision - including open and distance learning. The networks will also draw on data bases built up by the MSC through programmes like open tech.

Lord Young told the national educa-

tion and training conference at Birmingham on Tuesday: "The simple idea that people will be able to shop for training while shopping at Marks and Spencer is a very exciting prospect. I hope that it will begin to change people's beliefs about training being the right way for other people to being the right way for them."

Mr Ian Johnston, chief executive of the MSC's training division, told the conference that the Commission hoped that pressure from individuals armed with such information would open up the training market - making provision more relevant and responsive. "Perhaps 'training access points' (TAPs) can do for training what a combination of Comet and Argos backed by Which? consumer reports

have done for quality, price, and choice in electrical goods."

The Commission plans to set up 15 or 20 pilot local information networks with computers this year. It is already setting up computerized local labour market intelligence systems in each of its 55 area offices. Each will hold manpower and training details of 500 companies and employers.

Mr Johnston said they hoped this would provide "invaluable information" for those planning training provision, particularly L.E.A.s and MSC staff developing training programmes.

"It will also provide useful raw material for employer groups seeking to guide training providers and will supplement the very useful work being done all over the country," he said.



Bryan Nicholson... coherent system

be anchored to the curriculum, he urged careers teachers to ensure that it was available to all, including young people going into higher education, the handicapped and those from ethnic minorities.

He added a plea to careers teachers to make a better effort to get on with people outside school. "In the dialogue between education and industry we are poor communicators. We do not always make an effort to translate the language of the classroom for outsiders. We should familiarize ourselves with the language of the world of work."

Urging a trade union presence in programmes linking education and industry, Ms Carol Barley, a regional organizer of the Civil and Public Servants Association, said: "We should not be providing young people with information which leads them to become hewers of wood." The curriculum, she said, needed to be wide enough to give an understanding of industry so that young people could make up their own minds about the conflict of interest involved.

From questions asked after her talk it was clear misunderstandings are not

one-sided. Teachers spoke of difficulty in contacting unions, delay and disappointment in fulfilling arranged meetings, of strident comments and rudeness.

Mr Don Gregory of Sheldon School, Chippington, spoke of trade unions bringing inappropriate material for pupils which "sent shivers down our spines", including, among other things, advice to search managing directors' wastepaper baskets. "The pupils did not accept this," he said, "and the unions were not asked back."

Mr Tony Watts, director of the National Institute of Careers Education and Counselling, said it was not enough for teachers to say they will produce factory fodder. "That is a facile comment," he said. "Industry is part of society and if we regard education seriously, we must explain how industry works in relation to society."

A desire for professional training was reflected in resolutions calling on the Government for more courses and better funding, and for integration of departments associated with the education and vocational preparation of young people.

Geraldine Hackett joins the flag-wavers at the Industrial Society's chauvinistic Albert Hall celebrations

Land of hope and souvenir clogs

One issue settled at the Labour Society's extravaganza last week was the captains of industry and the trade union barons and baronesses were too hot at building towers on polystyrene blocks.

They were beaten hollow by a young people's team, led by Mike Swain, aged 24, who recently led an expedition to the Antarctic, but his team's experience of building blocks was far more recent than the competitors'.

Quite what the metaphor was for the state of British industry was not clear. Any Marxist straying into the red and gold splendour of the Albert Hall could have been forgiven for thinking they were watching the death throes of capitalism.

The industrialists' team, kitted out in red painting smocks, was led by quiet determination by Sir Henry Laing, chairman and managing director of the food giant United Biscuits, but the towers' shaky foundations limited potential for growth. The leaders of the trade union movement (the smocks) had difficulty working collectively and their tower block collapsed twice.

Compunics had sent teams of members representing everyone from the chief executive to the apprentice as well as the community organisations in their neighbourhood. W.J. Smith Swindon had included a local doctor, a comprehensive school head and the Bishop of Malmesbury.

Grimethorpe Colliery Band put everyone in the right mood by playing the national anthem and breaking into *Ride Britannia* during the sticky afternoon when the audience might have been tempted to drop off.

Leading industrialist Sir John Jones, chairman of ICI, his bald frame bursting out of a T-shirt, said: "We're making it happen - we've trained the contribution ICI makes to the economy - 57,000 people directly employed, a further 100,000 to 150,000 indirectly."

The Industrial Society's director of education, Ms Julie Cleverdon, introduced a video in which young people gave their impressions of the world of work. Unfortunately, there was a sound track, and only one could be heard. He offered a day's insight into the Civil Service. They wear black and grey clothes, sit in office and drink tea and don't work much work."

That was followed by two groups of YTS trainees telling the audience what they had learnt about industry. Sir Aberdeen teenagers presented a dramatic illustration of the dependency on oil in their area. Two Halifax YTS trainees gave the impression that the old Yorkshire wool town was being regenerated with the help of such products as souvenir clogs.

Later in the day, five young people took the stage to talk about how they managed to find a job and to offer advice to the unemployed. Michael Coutakis from Newcastle, who works in telephone ad sales, advised that "you must take any job". Wayne Jackson, a distribution postal worker with the Industrial Society, suggested that the young unemployed should get up early.

The penultimate spot was filled by Mr John Garnett, who retired last month as director of the Industrial Society. He made a plea for everyone to give what they could and for industry to communicate and involve its workers.

Suitably uplifted, the audience sang *Land of Hope and Glory* to the strains of the Grimethorpe Colliery Band, who waved their programmes and sang sheets in the air in the style of the Eastern European flag-wavers at celebrations, and went home.

Mike Durham reports from the summer conference of the Society of Education Officers

Major division as 'young Turks' lambast officials

The Society of Education Officers has been deeply split by an internal report which accuses senior administrators of being sexist and not open enough about educational policy with more junior staff.

A document circulated for consultation within the organization also calls for more robust statements of national policy for the media, public and politicians.

The controversial report - known as the Bramley Grange paper after a college seminar where it was first discussed last November - has now been sent to every regional group within the society for comment.

The document has been promoted by a group within the 2,000-strong Society of Education Officers who believe that the organization does not have a high enough public profile and lacks direction.

The so-called "young Turks", led by

the education officer (schools) at Kingston upon Thames, Mr Clive Eiles, and Cambridgeshire second deputy, Mr Tom Hinds, with the backing of Warwick University professor, John Tomlinson, are calling for a radical change of policy with a five-point plan of action.

Chief among their complaints is that the SEO, which represents chief officers and senior administrators nationally, is not outspoken enough on controversial issues such as education funding, staffing and the role of local government officers.

At present, they say, senior officers, with the backing of the society, are reluctant to commit themselves in public. But they claim that, whatever the complexion of the Government, education officers have a duty to be heard.

The rebels also claim that senior officers are too keen to keep to

themselves important statements, decisions and research on aspects of SEO policy and there is not enough communication within different levels of the organization.

The "young Turks" also have the support of many women at a senior level, who claim that the society is male-dominated and patronizing to women. There are no women chief officers and only a handful of those present at last weekend's SEO annual conference were women.

For the first time, a fringe meeting was held at the conference to discuss the direction of the SEO, but attracted only a small measure of interest. However, supporters of the document include leading chief education officers.

The Bramley Grange paper has now been sent out for consultation and will be discussed at the society's winter conference in January.



Professor Tomlinson backing rebels

Fees bias in university funding urged

Universities should be financed more through student fees and less through centrally administered grants, Dr John Roberts, warden of Merton College, Oxford, has said.

The taxpayer would foot the same-sized bill as at present but the system would more closely reflect student demand and give institutions greater independence, he argued.

Dr Roberts was speaking at a discussion on the future of universities at the Anglo-American Conference of Historians' meeting in London last week.

He said a "fee-led" system would introduce differentials between universities, between departments, and in salaries paid to staff.

Dr Roberts, former vice-chancellor of Southampton University, said the public had been slow to show support for universities during the 1981 cuts and the universities themselves had been "extremely resistant to change."

Kinnock attack on political controls

Local authority politicians who try to push through "unrealistic" policies at the expense of paid officials were attacked as dishonest by the Labour leader, Mr Neil Kinnock, last week.

He also told the Society of Education Officers' summer conference in Swansea that the Government had a "damned cheek" to attempt to prescribe the political activities of the employees of an authority could follow.

Mr Kinnock was responding to the report by the Widdicombe Committee, which recommended that senior local government officials should be barred from serving as elected councillors in neighbouring authorities.

The Opposition leader praised local government officials who offered independent professional advice despite politicians who were determined to act differently.

He said: "If an elected member takes it upon himself or herself to carry a populist cause that they know to be utterly unrealistic - when they know they don't have to carry the can because there is an officer to take the blame - that is dishonest and worthy of expulsion."

There is no serious reason why local government officers who are attacked because of a professional judgement should have to remain silent. Officers who were incompetent, on the other hand, deserved "all they get".

Mr Kinnock attacked the Widdicombe Committee recommendations on officers' rights to serve as elected members as "undemocratic" and said officers and members could agree on their own relationships and working patterns without the need for legislation.

Earlier, Mr Kinnock told the conference that local authorities and the Government, together with teachers and HM Inspectorate, should establish agreed national standards of educational provision in key areas.

They would include expenditure on pre-school facilities, class sizes, book supply and levels of in-service training which were crucial to the quality of the educational environment.

Nationally agreed levels of provision would enhance L.E.A.s' own ability to respond to local needs and would prevent them from using funds as they saw fit.

It was unrealistic to suggest that a Labour government would "tip up a pot of gold", Mr Kinnock said. "That, as I think everybody will understand, is not going to happen. There will be no miracles and no endless millions. The realities forbid that."

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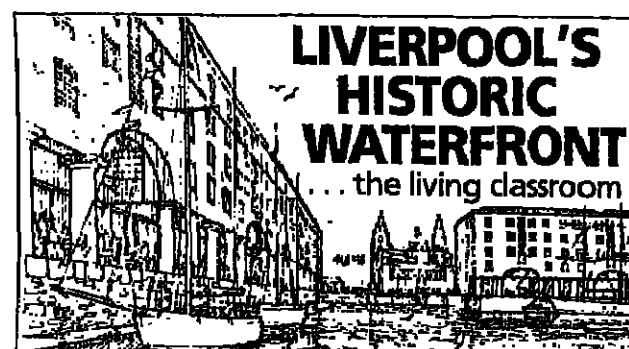
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Trust launched to foster industry ties

A consortium to foster links between schools and industry has been launched by the Inner London Education Authority with the backing of local firms and the Trades Union Congress.

The London Education Business Partnership has been set up to promote "involvement and understanding" between inner London schools and the world of business, financed by a trust paid for by industry.

Unions back new council

Two teacher organizations have welcomed the establishment of the National Council for Vocational Qualifications.

The National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers says the formation of the council is a major step towards a comprehensive system of qualifications. The council

Among its main objectives will be to support curriculum change in schools, develop pupil records of achievement, foster exchange schemes for teachers and sponsor research.

Mrs Frances Morrell, ILEA leader, said: "It is vital that schools learn more of the realities of the industrial and commercial world. It is just as important that industry understands how schools work."

The Secondary Heads Association says the NCVQ should encourage entry to higher education through a vocational modular route. But it is worried that schools are not being given a full role in preparing teenagers for adult or working life.



Professor Vincent Marks, of Surrey University, helps launch Surrey's healthy eating campaign with several dinner ladies by cutting a giant low-fat cake made for the occasion.

Dangling a 'carrot' to encourage healthy eating

by Geraldine Hackett

The struggle to wean children off hamburgers and chips is continuing to test the ingenuity of school meals organizers.

In Surrey the schools catering service is providing recipes for families to encourage a healthy approach to eating at home, as well as at school. And in Redbridge, east London, primary school pupils are awarded a "sunshine star" if they select foods low in fat and sugar for their lunch.

Surrey County Council launched the second phase of its healthy eating campaign last week. The menu in primary schools is being changed, but not too radically, because attempts to get dishes such as vegetable crumble on the menu have not been well received.

Other dishes, such as tuna lasagne and cheese courgette quiche, met some resistance, but pizza made with wholemeal flour was a favourite, according to Mr Wally Taylor, the county's schools catering officer.

Parents will be sent a five-day menu sheet covering breakfast, lunch, tea and snacks.

"Our aim is to show children and parents that eating healthily does not preclude us from eating some of the fun things as well. Our five-day menu includes chips and pancakes with syrup, as well as wholemeal dishes and semi-skimmed milk," said Mr Taylor.

Only just over 50 per cent of primary pupils take a school meal and Mr

Taylor believes the campaign will increase this percentage.

In Redbridge the catering service is launching a trial project at Caterham High School which will combine a revised schools meals menu with lessons on diet. Redbridge operates a cafeteria-style meals service in its secondary schools and at Caterham the food will be colour coded - red will warn of high fat and high sugar content.

Primary school menus were changed last year and the healthier dishes labelled "sunshine" food. "It is a bit of struggle, but the process of change has to be gradual," said Ms Pam Harkness, the borough's catering manager.

Staffing puts special needs pupils at risk

by James Meikle

Pupils on medical drugs and their classmates could be at risk because of lack of supervision in schools, according to teachers in Birmingham.

A National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers survey highlights the "potentially dangerous" arrangements for administering medication. It also indicates unsatisfactory provision in mainstream schools for handicapped children and those suffering behavioural and learning problems.

The education authority must provide more staff, money and advice to put matters right, says the union, which proposes a joint approach to the Department of Education and Science.

The local NAS/UWT has just issued the results of the first phase of a city-wide survey on special needs arrangements. This took in between 45 and 50 of the 270 primary schools and about 25 of the 90 secondary schools.

Most pupils suffering from a range of conditions from Down's Syndrome to epilepsy and arthritis required frequent medication. Some pupils looked after their own drugs but this could mean other children also took the medication, says the union.

Elsewhere, teachers, school secretaries or ancillary staff were responsible for administering medicines. The union believes parents should come into school where there is no suitable medical help.

A fifth of the primary schools and 29 per cent of the secondary schools in the survey had one or more physically handicapped pupils, but few had made even minor modifications.

More than a quarter of primary schools in the survey reported pupils with severe educational or behavioural problems, including vandalism, truancy, and aggression. The position in secondary schools is thought to be at least as bad.

While problems had increased, the number of expert staff had fallen. One secondary school reported remedial provision had fallen from 10 to 2 staff in four years.

The union is worried that only a small proportion of pupils identified as having special needs had been given a formal statement under the provisions of the 1981 Education Act.

Birmingham NAS/UWT believes similar results would be indicated by a national survey. Birmingham education authority declined to comment on the survey.

In brief

Admin posts to be cut

A radical restructuring of North Yorkshire education offices will mean loss of 21 administrative staff, saving of £146,000 a year, if a management plan is approved by the council next month. A second round by the education department proposes cutting the number of advisers replacing them with advisory teachers. Squadron Leader James Douglas, chairman of the Conservative Education Committee, claimed the effect would be an overall increase in the staff service.

TUC motions

The National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers has submitted two motions to the Trades Union Congress which meets in Brighton in September.

One condemns the Government education policy as "irresponsible, misguided" and the other calls for major investment in all public services. The union wants a campaign to challenge "the fallacy that taxation makes a significant impact upon the nation's economic plight."

Large classes

More than one in three children in Kent primary schools are being taught in classes of over 30, according to a survey by the local division of the National Union of Teachers.

Media course

A City and Guilds course in media techniques will be available at the autumn. It will be geared to entry wishing to become journalists, work in public relations. No previous qualifications are stipulated. It is expected that students will leave at level or GCSE passes.

Exams merger

The Royal Society of Arts and the Southern Examinining Group have announced a dual certificate in economics and statistics. As from September 1988 students will be able to obtain both an RSA certificate and a CES certificate in the subject after sitting a single examination.

External degrees

We regret that two separate proposals were conflated in the item "Nurses' nurses" in our June 13 issue. London University is considering the introduction of an external degree in mathematics and an external degree in mathematics and nursing, as the item suggested.

Diane Spencer joins the Women's Training Roadshow in the heart of Andy Capp territory

Taking the lid off the male preserves

"By the time you are 45 you should be on £60,000 a year - if you're successful," the accountant told the 15-year-old girl.

The woman beside her said: "I'm a successful teacher and I'm on eight-and-a-half." Pause for thought. At the Women's Training Roadshow in Newcastle Polytechnic last week, it was not only the schoolgirls who were learning. The three-day event was part of an attempt to make women and girls aware of careers and jobs in traditional male preserves. The North East is, after all, Andy Capp land.

It was one of a series of exhibitions sponsored by the Whitehall-based Women's National Commission (WNC) to mark the end of the United Nations decade for women. Newcastle was the first to be held in the North.

Ms Jill Brocker was seconded from her job as curriculum development and resources officer for Newcastle to co-ordinate the organization of the exhibition.

"I soon realized that the roadshow was just a concept - a panthechnicon would not arrive," she said. So the enter writing began. Sixty firms and organisations agreed to exhibit, 70 women who had succeeded in breaking into the male world of work volunteered to talk to the girls as "role models" and 27 schools sent 2,000 pupils, as many as space would allow. All done in three months, instead of the usual nine.

As the show was aimed at women too, Ms Maria Slowey, lecturer in the centre for continuing education and training, at the polytechnic, persuaded

'You have to work twice as hard if you're a woman - even if you're twice as good'

a wide range of groups to put on workshops on Thursday night (after late night shopping), and Friday morning. A creche was, of course, provided throughout. She was also instrumental in persuading the WNC to go north of the Thames in the first place.

At least 11 topics were on offer, including retraining opportunities, getting to know your rights, women in trade unions and management and anti-racist drama workshops.

The organizers were adamant that the schoolgirls were not there just to have a "good day out". Like a good field trip in an environmental studies course, they were meant to do some preparation, a structured visit and follow-up.

Ms Brocker provided schools with a "trail" to follow round the exhibition with questions to ask those on the stands and at least one in-depth interview with one of them, or a "role model". For the fourth and fifth formers this was essential. Teachers were also issued with tickets of workshops on a variety of topics - robotics, craft design and technology, media studies, computers, starting a small business - from which their students could make a choice. So their morning or afternoon was divided between these activities.

The third years had a slightly different

rent diet. They were shown first a BBC film on choosing options. Then a teacher, one of several seconded by Newcastle education authority, talked to them about the exhibition in order to relate it from school to work.

On the whole, the schools had operated according to plan. The co-ordinator was furious with one school (private) which let its pupils laze in the sun instead of purposefully striding round the exhibition; and it had clearly done no preparation.

After the exhibition trek, pupils could end their day profitably by consulting the careers service and, with the help of British Telecom's new technology, speedily contact their local office for more information.

Judging by the atmosphere on one of the hottest days of the year, the venture was a huge success. Whether it will conquer entrenched attitudes in the long term is another matter.

As a technician from Swan Hunter said: "You have to work twice as hard if you're a woman - even if you're twice as good."



Circuit training... the Newcastle exhibition attracted more than 2,000 pupils

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Teacher wins court case

A Blackpool teacher who punished an unruly class by making them stay behind for 10 minutes after school has been taken to court by one of the pupils' fathers.

Mr Lewis Terrington claimed that his son Jonathan, 13, had been falsely imprisoned as he had not misbehaved. He said a good teacher should be able to pinpoint troublemakers. But he lost his claim for £30 damages against Lancashire County Council.

There had been an unacceptable noise level among the 25 boys but having taught them for only two lessons he could not identify individuals.

NUT survey highlights bias against women

Women teachers in Gwent face discrimination in pay and promotion, according to a National Union of Teachers survey.

In one school, men who headed departments were paid on Scale 3 while women department heads were on Scale 2.

The survey documents some of the factors that keep women teachers in the county on the lowest grades - temporary contracts, which do not allow women to establish themselves in a school; scale points for shortage subjects, which tend to be taught by men; the amalgamation of schools and short lists which are weighted against women.

The union's equal opportunities committee suggests women would get

a fairer deal if there was:

- Statutory leave of absence for parents when children are ill;
- Job sharing for teachers with younger children; and
- A radical look at internal promotion schemes.

At interviews women were asked whether they were married; how many children they had and how they would cope when children fell ill. The survey says: "The picture which emerges is one in which women have to work harder and prove themselves in order to gain promotion. This applies particularly to married women with children. Indeed, some women believe that having children is a luxury they cannot afford."

Raymond Keene contributes the first in an occasional series on chess

Big match could offer ideal opening

The Kasparov-Karpov World Championship, which starts in London on July 28 and runs throughout August, is the centenary match and the first occasion on which the supreme chess title has been contested in the UK.

It is now therefore an ideal time for teachers to encourage their pupils to take up chess - a game which as Jeremy Hanley, Conservative MP for Richmond and Barnes, pointed out in Parliament on May 23, "... cuts across racial, sexual and cultural barriers; it encourages logical and independent thought; it fosters a disciplined mental approach and, furthermore, schoolchildren and students who play chess have been proven to attain even higher academic standards than they might otherwise have achieved."

"Chess develops capabilities for pattern recognition and is, therefore, an excellent training ground for the development of the related areas of computer studies and mathematics. In that respect, chess helps English stu-

dents to compete with the Japanese and Americans in this vital technological area."

Games in the World Championship will be played in the ballroom of the Park Lane Hotel, London from 5pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays of each week starting July 28; adjournments (when required) will be played from 5pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; Sundays will be rest days. There will be numerous side events and displays during the match with commentary on the games as they are played provided by leading grandmasters and international masters.

Tickets are available from: American Express, 19/20 Berners Street, London W1. 01-637 8600. Contact John Bogg or Suzie King.

Other events worthy of note in the run-up and during the World Championship are the National Garden Festival's "Games People Play" at Stoke from July 9-13 and "Boys and Girls' Toys and Hobbies" at the same

venue from August 20-25.

Meanwhile, over 80 youngsters from four countries were converging on Southampton University this week for what is believed to be the first tournament of its kind. The children - all under 12 years of age - come from England, Scotland, France and Denmark. Since 1983 there has been an England v Scotland international but this year it was decided to opt for a continental flavour. The tournament ends today.

Teachers' Assurance, one of the largest sponsors of junior chess in this country, are this year celebrating their Golden Jubilee, so to mark this historic year, the international tournament has become a four-co-ordinated event. The organizers believe that the England junior squad is the best in the world outside the Soviet Union. For further information, please contact: J P Communicators on 0703 32758.

Finally, the teams who have reached The Times semi-finals this

year are: Bluecoat School, Liverpool; Methodist College A, Belfast; Plymouth College; and the Royal Grammar School, Colchester. Today's final game commentary at the Great Eastern Hotel is by James Plaskett, one of our most exciting young grandmasters.

Some of the outstanding players weaned on The Times Schools Championship are grandmaster Jon Speelman, the reigning British Champion, Nigel Short, the UK chess prodigy and only British player ever to qualify for the World Championship Candidates Tournament, and international masters William Watson and Julian Hodgson, two of our most talented young players.

Incredibly, Speelman, Watson and Hodgson all come from St Paul's School, London, the current holder. Sadly, St Paul's was eliminated this year on a technical infringement of the rules. For further information ring 01-491 1747. Spectators are most welcome and entry is free.



A thoughtful moment for Jon Speelman, captain of King David School, Manchester, in the final of the World Primary Schools Under-11 Chess Championship in Southampton. Sponsors, Teachers' Assurance, scheduled the matches - which began today - to allow an orthodox day team to compete for the first time. King David team finished runners-up to The Mayflower primary school in London's Docklands.



OVERSEAS

Expurgating all the Raj

INDIA

Uma Ram Nath reports on attempts to remove the British influence from textbooks

and produced. Independent schools can only use private-sector publications up to the eighth year of schooling. A working group on national book policy has recommended that the private sector should be allowed to play a significant role in textbook production, particularly to remedy the "single textbook syndrome" in rural schools.

One good example of independently-produced textbooks is the Headway Science series for primary and middle schools, produced by the educational division of Vikas, a major publisher. These have been developed by a group of teachers from independent schools which have differing systems. In one school, science was taught in Hindi until the fifth year (nine to 10-year-olds) and thereafter in English; another school was run by Jesuits and the teaching was entirely in English.

Gayatri Moonthy, the co-ordinator of the educational planning group at St Xavier's School, Delhi, says that while writing the book for sixth-year pupils, they kept reality in sight. "In most of our middle schools (11 to 14-year-olds), children do not have access to the school laboratory, because it is full of the older pupils for whom lab work is compulsory.

"So to compensate for that, we put in a lot of experiments that they could do with improvised materials: bits of paper, bottles, tins and wires. In fact, the single most expensive item is a battery cell."

Both in the Headway and the Junior

Science series, the approach is refreshing and stimulating. With the younger children it is not just a case of introducing concepts but teaching language as well.

Textbooks do not generally have a teachers' edition, but they place teachers' notes in the book itself. How would the Indian teacher react to their relaxed approach when the emphasis was usually so much on completing a syllabus?

"The creative teacher always does more than there is in the book. For the average teacher, I think it helps them to have these notes. Most of them are attuned to finishing a vast amount of content. They want a solid chunk of learning to get through."

"But in the primary series we have cut down on the text and put in activities instead: it may be pressing a flower or hanging up a string of green chillies to see how they change colour - things that children associate with their own lives. We have crosswords, puzzles, lots of illustrations, and plenty of fun."

While the books were being tested in the classroom, the parents asked the teachers why their children had not been given more of that kind of material before.

The books are creating a new view of science and the way it is received by young people. Gayatri says: "Some children have an anti-science feeling because they have thought of science all along as a collection of an enormous quantity of facts which have to be learnt, understood with difficulty and probably repeated at exams."

"It's really part of an observation exercise; you train the children in certain skills that you need for living. We tried to show them that science is not confined to the textbook and the classroom."



Imperial measures: Indian faces, but British ways

Minister cancels pro-Nazi's doctorate

FRANCE

Nantes University's decision to award a doctorate for a thesis arguing that Hitler's gas chambers never existed is causing uproar in France.

M. Alain Devaquet, Minister for Research and Higher Education, has taken the unprecedented step of cancelling the doctorate which, he said, discredited the entire French university system.

While he condemned the content of the thesis, M. Devaquet said its annulment was based not on the subject matter but on technical grounds.

An investigation has revealed gross administrative irregularities both in the acceptance by Nantes University of a retired agronomics engineer, M. Henri Roques, who was once general secretary of a banned fascist movement, and in the defence of his thesis only two months later. His supervising professor, a pro-Nazi, has been suspended until the outcome of a legal inquiry into the affair is known.

A jury of three extreme right-wing professors awarded M. Roques a doctorate and a fourth member (the only historian) claims he was not present and that his signature on the certificate is a forgery.

In his thesis, M. Roques painstakingly highlights "discrepancies" and "errors" in a Nazi officer's eye-witness account of the gas chambers and concludes they never existed.

Although the doctorate was awarded a year ago, the scandal broke only recently when it was discovered that two pro-Nazi "historians" had used it as a reference.

The doctorate awarded to M. Roques, the *docteur d'université*, is an unusual one since it is awarded by a particular university and is not a national degree, unlike the far more prestigious *doctorat d'état*. M. Devaquet says that, in future, assessment procedures for all three existing doctorates will be identical.

Mary Follath



Alain Devaquet

Aids ruling raises fear of witchhunt

In the continuing controversy over what should be done about AIDS schoolchildren or teachers who are diagnosed as suffering from the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids), the US justice department has come down on the side of fear.

An official ruling last week says that even though patients are protected by federal law against discrimination based on disability, school may be students or staff who have the complaint - provided the reason is fear of contagion.

The rationale for the decision, which is the Reagan administration's analysis of the legal issues surrounding Aids, goes like this: though the epidemic ranks as a handicap under the 1973 Rehabilitation Act, contagiousness does not. Therefore, a person discriminated against as a carrier of the Aids virus has no claim under the Act, which forbids bias in federally-funded programmes against the disabled.

Fears are already being raised that the ruling may lead to a witchhunt of homosexuals, who, with drug users, are the most frequent victims of the disease.

The department's decision has been attacked by Robert Weiner, the executive editor of the Education Policy Group, who said: "The justice department's conclusions are based on politics and fear, not good reasoning. Their findings condemn those of the Government's top scientists, who say Aids is not spread through casual contact."

Mr Weiner urged school officials to convince their communities, "by over their obsession with Aids is going to ruin their child and spread the disease". They should be focusing, he said, on teenagers, 41 per cent of whom were sexually active, whom were sexually active, whom were sexually active, whom were sexually active.

One reason for the delay is that the Prime Minister Wilfrid Martens' coalition Government contains radical right-wing liberals - including the justice minister, Guy Verhofstadt - and the more moderate Christian parties. The latter are under strong pressure from "their" unions which, with the formidable backing of the Catholic hierarchy, are strongly opposed to the measures being debated.

The measures being debated include reducing the Government budget contribution by 4 per cent for secondary schools, except for Flemish schools in Brussels and rural schools and a special allowance which would, to some extent, spare vocational education. In some cases, schools or sections with too few pupils would close or be amalgamated with others; and more pupils would be required before new ones could be opened.

In the independent French-speaking sector, 14 teacher training colleges out of 28 could be threatened with closure from next September, and more the following year.

The cuts, which are spread across all government expenditure but will hit education especially hard, have provoked strikes, protests and demonstrations from teachers and parents' organisations.

Approval for budget plan

The US Senate and the House of Representatives have finally agreed a compromise budget for 1987 which boosts federal spending on education by \$2,000 million over the current year's figure of \$17,700 million. President Reagan had wanted the figure reduced to \$15,200 million.

Each body has already earmarked extra funding for its own pet projects. The Senate is supporting maths, science, and special education, while the House wants more for high-priority programmes including student aid.

President Reagan has said that he finds the plan "generally acceptable". Higher education authorities are much more enthusiastic. "Considering what might have happened, we're ecstatic," said Rick Jerie of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

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Europe

Magnet move pulls in new resources for blacks

UNITED STATES

Bill Norris on the priority area schools that can now boast huge waiting lists

of sending their children to such schools, and racial balance would gradually be achieved.

The plan proved so popular that the 12 schools participating at the start of the experiment will grow to 29 this year, and there will still not be enough room. White students have taken up nearly all the available places, joining those blacks who were automatically eligible because they were already enrolled in the selected schools. Not only were whites prepared to transfer in droves from other parts of the public education system, but nearly 1,000 applied from private schools.

Under this scheme, selected schools in the black districts were to be provided with additional teachers and the resources to offer a far higher standard of education. White parents, it was hoped, would in time see the advantage

of Prince George's County, which is on the fringe of Washington DC, has been under a federal court order to desegregate its schools for the past 13 years. But high concentrations of black residents in some areas, and the reluctance of white parents to have their children taken by buses to what they regarded as inferior schools, had brought little progress until the "magnet" idea was introduced.

Under this scheme, selected schools in the black districts were to be provided with additional teachers and the resources to offer a far higher standard of education. White parents, it was hoped, would in time see the advantage



Characters assassinated

The current Japanese craze for the *wapuro* - word-processor - is dispatching the 2,000-character typewriter (left) straight from the classroom to the museum.

The slow and cumbersome machine has never been popular with teachers or pupils. The smaller, faster and easier word-processor, with sales totalling 800,000 units last year alone, has proved much more alluring.

Such a prospect may be welcomed by *wapuro* manufacturers but has alarmed educationists who fear that children will no longer learn to write their language traditionally, stroke by stroke.

John Greenlees

Head-on collision at the bus stop

ISRAEL

Ultra-orthodox Jews have enraged their secular neighbours. Report by Shalva Weil.

Strife between the religious and the secular has long been a characteristic of Israel. The latest bout of mutual animosity has been triggered by swimsuit advertisements featuring scantily-clad women adorning the bus shelters in the holy city of Jerusalem.

For several months now posters have been sprayed with black paint and sporadically set alight. *Haredim* - ultra-orthodox Jews who find the advertisements offensive - have been held responsible for these acts. Three men from the ultra-orthodox quarter of Jerusalem, Mea Shearim, have admitted their guilt over the first round of offences. Other *haredim*, who were rounded up after six bus shelters were set alight on Jaffa Street, Jerusalem's main artery, have been released.

Retaliation has been unexpectedly vicious and has included the burning of a Tel Aviv synagogue far away from *haredi* concentrations in Jerusalem.

The most common targets for secular attackers, however, have been *haredi* educational institutions. To the secular Jewish mind, it is the ultra-orthodox educational system which ultimately breeds intolerance, deviance and even violence.

The response of outraged secular groups to the vandalized bus shelters in Jerusalem was to attack a *yeshiva* (religious seminary) associated with the *Gur haredim* sect in Tel Aviv's Ramat Hayehyeh quarter. In Jerusalem, residents of the Kiryat Matzliach neighbourhood awoke one morning to find graffiti sprayed on apartment walls.

On the side of a school bus used to transport girls to the ultra-orthodox Beth Ya'acov school was painted the slogan "Run over every religious person." In the village of Yavne'el, where religious-secular tension has been running high for some time, the national situation provided the necessary ex-

ample for a far greater number of religious Jews to attack a state religious school - not a school belonging to the *haredim* this time - and damage religious books.

At a funeral ceremony, enacted in accordance with Jewish religious custom to bury burned and torn books, deep sorrow was expressed at the escalation of the religious-secular conflict. The Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, expressed the view that there was "no alternative to religious-secular dialogue".

However, secular and many religious Jews accuse the *haredim* of instructing a younger generation to be intolerant and insular.

In the *haredi* single-sex schools, religious studies are taught to the exclusion of almost all other subjects. Children are brought up with no knowledge of geography, history or the outside world, and are not permitted to watch television.

Study hours are long and teaching methods old-fashioned. Children, as young as six years of age, begin school at 7am and study until 5pm. Teachers may well be unqualified.

Despite the limitations of this educational approach, *haredi* institutions are mushrooming, particularly in Jerusalem where the ultra-orthodox population is increasing rapidly. According to the ultra-orthodox Rabbi Nissim Ze'ev, the deputy mayor of Jerusalem, 42 *haredi* educational institutions are recognized in the capital.

However, a far greater number of private schools operate. One of these is the Taharat Hakodesh boys' school in the Bukharan quarter of Jerusalem. Recently, the balcony of the school building fell down and the municipality served the management with a court order to shut down the premises. Yacov Rabin, a Jew of Bukharan origin and head of the parents' committee, intends to fight the court order as he objects to the alternative of state religious education. He takes classes of little Sefardi boys daily to study in the local public park. "But what will happen in the winter?" he asked.

Rabbi Ze'ev is not perturbed by this kind of crisis. He regarded it as "positive", in his words, "an indication of the expansion of *haredi* education which emphasizes Jewish law, prayer and conduct". He rejected the notion that overcrowding and difficult physical conditions breed violence.

He also dissociated ultra-orthodox Sefardi Jews originating in African and Asian countries from ultra-orthodox Ashkenazi Jews, with their European background. "Some of the latter are anti-Zionists and extreme." It may be members of this group who regard acts of hooliganism as "holy" protests against the State of Israel. While condemning the attacks on Jerusalem's bus shelters, Rabbi Ze'ev appealed to the advertising company never to reinstate Israel's bathing beauties.



Boiling point... swimsuit posters spark conflict

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LETTERS

Law of averages

Sir - Much has been made by the press of the University Grants Committee research ratings of our universities and there seems to be a general belief that they will colour the judgement of future sixth-form students. This could happen but would it be logical? Some assert that good research and teaching go hand in hand but where is the evidence? It must at least be possible that precisely the opposite is true.

What we in schools want to know is how well our students are going to be taught at university and I hope that the UGC will find a way of rating university departments for teaching.

As far as law departments are concerned, I suggest that the statistics published recently in *Law Notes* have much more relevance for schools than research ratings. These show for individual universities and polytechnics, the percentage of graduates who, having sat the final examination at the end of their College of Law course, passed the whole of that examination.

One can argue that law degree courses do not have the sole objective of enabling students to cope with professional law examinations, that the quality of intake at different institutions varies and so on. But why is it that, taken over a six-year period, the graduates of Cambridge (which was starred for research), Durham (rated by the UGC as below average for research) and Nottingham (rated above average for research), to name the top three, can have a success rate of over 80 per cent while the figure for some other universities is a long way short of that? It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the quality of teaching was an important factor, and gave some students a considerable advantage.

NORMAN ELSE
Principal
Neale-Wade Community College
March, Cambridgeshire

DES embodies British spirit of muddling through

Sir - Last week's *TES* provides, twice over, evidence of the slap-happy approach of the DES to some of its responsibilities. To feed a minister with patently absurd statistics for a parliamentary reply on international comparisons of educational spending is bad enough. But even worse is Roger Watson's account of the Department's blindness to the need for advance information, planning and consultation to ensure the provision of GCSE textbooks on time.

Schoolbook publishers in other European countries have often told me of their close cooperation with the framers of curricula: they take it as axiomatic that curriculum change must be complemented by the arrival on the market, at the right time, of a plentiful supply of competing printed materials. Yet, as our own school system totters over the brink of the biggest-ever curriculum change, all our publishers can offer are materials based on often barely adequate and hopelessly late information about the nature of the new examinations.

Why such a fiasco? Partly, perhaps, because of the widespread myth (diminishing in strength as one approaches the chalk face) that virtually all needs for printed resources can, and will be met by teachers writing, designing and photocopying in their spare time. No doubt there is - or was - a germ of truth in this idea: some teachers have always found time to do such work, and quite



a few published textbooks have originated in such hunc-nunc materials. But to assume that the vast new needs of GCSE can largely be satisfied by teachers' last-minute improvisations is an absurdity of a kind that no other advanced nation would be tempted to indulge in. In Britain, however, the spirit of "muddling through" lives on - not least, in the DES.

KENNETH PINNOCK
White House
St Martin's Avenue
Canterbury
Kent

Few takers

Sir - I was pleased to see (*TES*, June 27) that the negotiations between the management side and teacher unions in respect of a provisional offer of 5.5 per cent for further and higher education for teachers will include, among other things, a detailed examination of the differentials existing in the salary structure. This is long overdue.

A recent analysis of 60 posts advertised in this college between January 1 1985 to the end of May showed that in 73 per cent of cases we received less than 12 applications. The posts covered most departments in the college and we could anticipate difficulty in attracting applications for the craft area in the building trades, accountancy, electronics, microcomputing, new technology, electrical installation and haidressing.

What is evident, however, is the poor response for senior posts such as head of department (Grade V) level and principal lectureships. There is also a disappointing response at Lecturer II level. There are many reasons obviously determining the strength of market forces, one of which is the progression from LI to LII, from LII to SI and from SI to PL coupled with a

generally uncompetitive salary structure. For example, when we were recruiting recently for a principal lecturer in environmental health, of the applicants interviewed only four had a net increase of just over 10 per cent on their previous salary. This is a benefit of the inner London area, which was already being eroded by four internal applicants. A proposed structure is also the reason why excessive amount of overtime has worked in many shortage areas.

Statistics similar to the above are probably quoted from other colleges, especially those in metropolitan areas. It is regrettable that none of the relevant trade unions have contested an independent survey in which could have provided evidence to support their case. Unless the Education Committee gives serious realistic attention to considering salary levels and differentials it will be difficult to sustain a quality service.

J R PARRY WILLIAMS
Principal
Tottenham College of Technology
London N15

Oxford places

Sir - While I applaud the plea for rationalisation in Jeremy Sutcliffe's "The way that Oxford's bubble went flat" (*TES*, June 20), I regret that it is marred by false conclusions drawn from a simple chronological error.

The first applicants to Oxford University under the new 1985 admissions procedure are seeking places for 1986/87 entry. Thus the current first-year students referred to were in fact the last to apply in the previous system - not pioneers in the new as was implied. Until this year's A level points are totted up, neither Mr Sutcliffe nor anyone else can assess the impact of

the option of interview without a written exam on the proposed state school entrants to Oxford.

I do, however, look forward to a future *TES* analysis of these particularly as I am one of the fourth term state school non-entrants examination applicants involved.

REBEKA SELICK
11 Clifton Dale
York

Letters should be as brief as possible and typed on one side of the page. The Editor reserves the right to amend or cut letters where necessary.

many teachers with their own funds - or the picture so portrayed by the media - sickens the general public. True, our pay is inadequate but it is only a small part of the story. Most of us - and the general public need to realize this - are equally concerned about lack of money in our schools for our young people.

Mr Connah wishes shortage-subject teachers to be treated as special cases. Effectively, then, he also thinks that a maths teacher should earn more than other teachers. Where does this petty bickering end? For goodness sake, why can't we stop arguing among ourselves and start caring about our profession and all it represents?

T M WYNCOLL
20 Edward Street
Morpeth
Northumberland

Mature entrants

Sir - I refer to Mr Connah's letter (*TES*, June 20), concerning the hardships experienced by mature graduates wishing to leave industry and enter teaching.

I am shocked that Mr Connah, his current local education authority and headteacher feel that the Postgraduate Certificate in Education has "little to offer an experienced, mature entrant to the profession". In fact, there seems to be contradiction here.

Someone who is "mature", I would infer from Mr Connah's remarks, has nothing to learn about teaching before actually starting a two-year probationary period. I was a mature entrant to the profession, having worked successfully in the oil industry before becoming a chemistry teacher.

I was somewhat sceptical about

studying for a PGCE, but the education department at Goldsmiths College, London provided one of the most exhilarating and stimulating years of my life. The PGCE is relevant and essential, and gives prospective teachers a chance to see if they really are capable of the job.

A two-year probationary period is too large a part of young people's education to be entrusted to someone who may eventually prove to be unsuitable. I might add that teacher assessment would follow naturally after a PGCE. After continuous appraisal at Goldsmiths, I was rather disappointed that formal assessment ended when I started teaching.

I sympathize with Mr Connah's financial position. Four years ago, I was earning more in industry than I am likely to earn for a long time in teaching. However, this obsession by

Literary challenge

Sir - The article by George Simmers, "Glum and male" (*Talkback*, June 27) highlights the problem facing any examining board or group in choosing literature set texts which will satisfy everyone. The mixture should, it seems, not only represent the best literature from several centuries, but, more importantly, reflect impartially the relative output of male and female writers from 1900 onwards.

In order to appeal to the widest cross-section of today's youth there should be examples of the thriller, romance, science-fiction, fantasy, ghost-story and myth/legend genres. Texts should not be overly serious and solemn, nor concentrate on social problems, yet might profitably touch on racial issues, humorously if possible.

Though Graham Greene is not entirely damned by his association with O level, Robert Cormier comes off badly: he is "down-market" and his prose is "overheated"; Stan Barstow is "drab"; Priestley and Leland are "easily sententious"; *Macbeth* is but a walking shadow of a ghost story; Chaucer, Shakespeare, Keats and Tennyson owe nothing to myth and legend.

Mr Simmers implies that the "wise and experienced" Midland Examining Group panel members and chief examiners have fallen even before the off. Has he considered the financial implications to schools of the group's setting, particularly in the early years,



Stan Barstow



David Leland

none of the "old favourites"? How about those candidates who will go on to an Advanced level literature course?

The MEG takes all reasonable criticism seriously, and is always willing to enter into constructive dialogue. Mr Simmers does, however, point to the solution himself when he mentions the free choice of texts available in the 100 per cent course-work option and the compulsory 40 per cent "wider reading". Those seeking exciting female adventure, as well as those of a more sober bent, will find that MEG is not only accommodating but also caring.

JOHN READAWAY
Secretary
Midland Examining Group
1 Hills Road
Cambridge

Friends of nature

Sir - In my article on marine reserves (*TES*, June 29), lack of space prevented me from mentioning the vital part that the Dorset Naturalists' Trust plays in the setting up and maintaining of voluntary inter-tidal reserves. In sponsoring the Purbeck Marine Wildlife Reserve, which protects and interprets the environment of Kimmeridge Bay, the trust has enabled valuable pioneering work to take place. Its contribution to both conservation and education deserves to be acknowledged.

SHIRLEY TOULSON
16 Priest Row
Wells, Somerset

Supervisors' rate

Sir - In your feature on June 6 you indicated that the senior supervisor rate of pay in North Yorkshire was planned to be £2.43. You also pledged that your information was provided by the National Association of Head Teachers.

In fact, the senior supervisor rate in North Yorkshire is to be £2.44. We expect the Department of Education and Science to approve our proposals in the near future.

F F EVANS
County education officer
North Yorkshire County Council

Nursery nurses

Sir - With reference to your article, "NNEB disquiet at nursing diploma" (*TES*, July 4), I do hope that colleges keep faith with existing NNEB-vocational courses and are not panicked into changing to the new BTEC "equivalent".

It appears to me that all BTEC is interested in is "gobbling up" the courses run by the smaller independent boards without regard for the valuable contribution made in the field of child care and education by nursery nurses trained by the National Nursery Examination Board for the past 40 years.

The essential value of the NNEB certificate course is that it provides an opportunity for students of a wide

ability range to gain a unique professional qualification and have a very realistic prospect of gaining employment at the end of it as a nursery nurse - this being the specific goal of the training. Perhaps we should consider the effectiveness of the nurse training courses since they don't equip the student to go on to be a doctor!

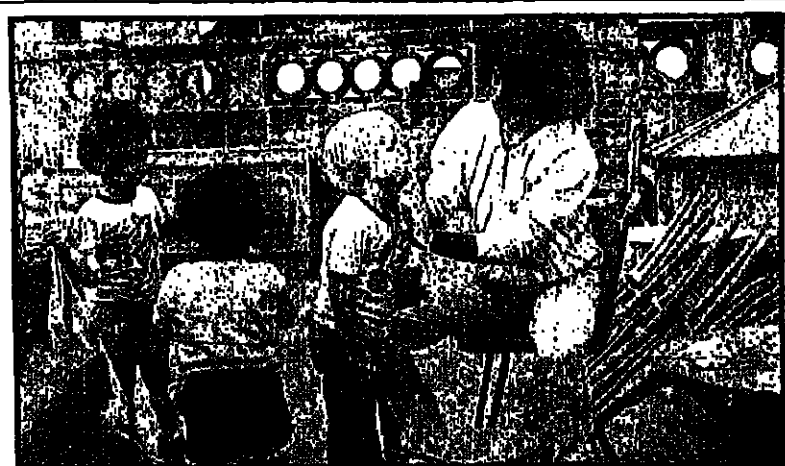
If BTEC wishes to provide a course which prepares students for nursery teaching it ought to state its aims more clearly and devise a more appropriate course title.

If it intends to swallow-up the existing NNEB course or "cream off" more academically gifted students, what hope can it offer the less able student who wishes to train to become an "assistant" - in fact a vital and usually much-appreciated member of a

child caring/educating team. I grant that pay and conditions/structure for nursery nurses are not good - but the NNEB cannot be blamed for this; they are not the paymasters. Indeed, they have responded effectively to criticism by producing an exciting and highly regarded post-qualifying certificate which can give employers the incentive to make improvements in pay and conditions/structure.

As a vocational tutor on an NNEB course I feel, as I am sure most others do, very committed to and proud of both the NNEB and the students I help train.

ALAN BROWN
37 Hadrian Avenue
Chester-le-Street
Co Durham



Nursery training... colleges must choose

Moral leaders

Sir - Have we come to accepting complacently lower standards, so it is no longer remarkable when a headmistress, Miss Metcalfe (*TES*, June 13), quibbles at the introduction in sex education of "moral considerations of the value of family life"? She does this on the grounds that some children coming from broken homes or single parents might feel guilty.

I am very sorry children are to be deprived of high ideals and standards because we live in a naughty world. "Be ye perfect" was very good teaching 2,000 years ago; unfortunately, children are robbed of that advice just as they are robbed of so much of their rich heritage in this land, by modern fads.

I wonder what Miss Metcalfe's attitude is to other failings of some families. Does she refuse to teach honesty, because some parents will be burglars and shop-lifters? Does she refuse to teach healthy diet because some parents will feed their children "snodges" and there might be feelings of guilt? Does she refuse modern gadgets in home economics because children may not have them at home, with equally feelings? (In the 1930s, some of our only decent kitchens were in cookery classes, an inspiration to pupils.)

Our country needs a lead on decent standards. "Duties before Rights" was a sound school motto. As a retired head, I would rather see ideals festively offered by schools, even when they fail, rather than as second best imposed by the Government.

HIJONES
3 Down Bridge Road
Beckenham
Kent

Church schools... balanced view

Church schools... balanced view

United front

Sir - We know of no teacher or parent who has been happy with the situation in education during the past 15 months.

For the sake of the profession we feel a way ahead needs to be found. Teachers, too, need to regain a sense of their own worth and thus the esteem of the public.

Perhaps the following will help: 1 It is essential that the teaching profession unites in order to produce a common core for good that is outside political manipulation. Teachers need a professional body that all can turn to for guidance and direction. Such a body could be elected by the existing unions and professional organizations. This body would help establish the contracts by which teachers are employed. It could also monitor the training of the profession.

2 Having established this professional body, all who are qualified to teach would contribute voluntarily (to start with) one day's pay to a central fund. This would be done for several reasons: (a) it would unite teachers; (b) it would be seen by parents as a

sincere attempt to look to the future of education; (c) it would produce a sizeable sum of money with which we would then employ those professionals in the advertising and public relations sphere to put our case in newspapers, on television, in public debate and the House of Commons. Teachers must act professionally, guiding education forward without fear or favour from political interference from any direction, but the whole thing depends on all teachers working together for the greater good of those who teach and of those who are taught.

We would be pleased to hear from any members of the profession who would like to be involved with these ideas.

JEAN MORLEY
Headteacher
and the staff of St Margaret's primary school
Ditchling

The head and staff of Cotesmore RC primary school
Hove

The head and staff of Maynards Green primary school
Heathfield
Plus the heads and staffs of 20 other East Sussex primary schools

Parent power

Sir - Parents in all parts of the country who are deeply worried about the crisis in state education have been organizing themselves into groups to campaign for better schooling.

The All London Parents' Action Group (ALPAG) have co-ordinated parent groups in inner and outer London during the past nine months to great effect. In order to capitalize on

our success and to maximize pressure for progress in state education, we are asking parent groups throughout the country to contact us.

Any parents who are interested in joining the network should contact us at the following address.

CHARLIE ROE
All London Parents' Action Group
23 Alverstone Road
London NW2

Christian influence remains strong

Sir - The article by Bert Lodge, "Older staff convey Christian flavour" (*TES*, June 20) was helpful in highlighting a warning contained in our report, *The Future of the Anglican Colleges*, that there appears to be a trend towards appointing fewer committed Christians to college staffs.

But the figures he quotes are misleading when taken out of context. The report makes it clear that overall four-fifths of the staff claim some level of Christian commitment, three-quarters are Church members and over half are regular Church attenders. Much the same is true of the students; about three-quarters claim some Christian commitment and Church membership, and over two-fifths attend Church regularly. The colleges are thus places

where the Christian influence is strongly present. Half the students, as Bert Lodge indicates, gave the pleasantness of its location as one of their reasons for choosing their college - not surprisingly, since most of the colleges are indeed attractively situated. But far more, four-fifths, gave as a reason the range and quality of the subjects offered. While few explicitly chose the college because it was Anglican, the quality of relationships within the colleges emerges as an important factor in the choice, expectation and experience of the students and this is the characteristic most frequently mentioned by them in their written comments. Many of our respondents directly associated this quality with

both the size and the Christian basis of the colleges. So the Christian nature of the colleges may well be far more significant in the eyes of the students than an isolated statistic suggests. We conclude that the religious convictions and practice of the principals and a good proportion of the staff, the prominence given to the chapels and the work of the chaplains, the proportion of students who are committed Christians and the inherited religious tradition of the colleges are all key factors in determining their ethos. While no one piece of evidence is decisive, we believe that on a cumulative basis there is a strong case for asserting that the colleges are offering a distinctive and valued contribution to British higher education

and that this contribution is underpinned by their Christian foundation. JOHN GAY, BRIAN KAY, GEORGE PERRY and DIANA LAZEBY
Culham College Institute
60 East Saint Helen Street
Abingdon, Oxon.

Bert Lodge writes: All the researchers say is true yet there still comes through the book a picture of gradual retreat in the colleges from an explicit stance of Christian conviction and witness - as though staying in higher education mattered more than to "let your light shine before men."

Too negative

Sir - Carefully collated statistics from educational research are very helpful; arbitrary quotation from such statistics can be rather unhelpful.

Leslie Francis's recent book, *Partnership in Rural Education*, provides a balanced view of the teachers in church schools in one rural diocese; Bert Lodge's report of the book (*TES*, June 20) chooses to emphasize only the negative perspective of Francis's statistics (13 per cent of church school teachers long to be somewhere else).

To redress the balance it is worth recognizing that 89 per cent of the teachers in these church schools regard themselves as members of a Christian denomination and 40 per cent attend

church most Sundays - a remarkably high proportion in today's general level of church attendance.

We over half of them believe that church schools should give more attention to religious education than county schools. Only 10 per cent of the teachers feel that the Church's stake in schools should be reduced; in fact 60 per cent of the teachers in aided schools and 33 per cent in controlled schools argue that the Church should strengthen its involvement in the secondary sector.

The majority of them hold a very positive view of the contribution of church schools both to the education of children and to the wider life of the local community.

In his preface to *Partnership in Rural*

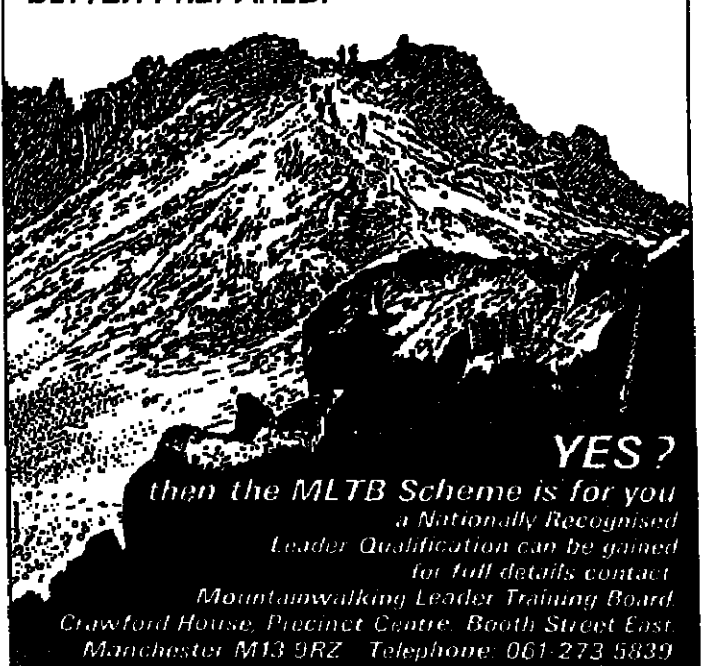
Education, the Bishop of London, in his capacity as chairman of the General Synod board of education, recommends both the positive and negative aspects of the study to challenge the governing bodies of church schools to debate their aims and to stimulate dioceses to structure appropriate in-service training for their church school teachers.

It would be unfortunate if selective reporting from the book should deter such bodies from taking its message seriously.

CANON VINCENT STRUDWICK
Director
Diocesan Church House
North Hinksey
Oxford

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TALKBACK

Free range learning

TONY BEAUCHAMP

The growing recognition of the value of problem-solving in the curriculum, not only in mathematics, science or CDT, but throughout all subject areas, cries out for a totally fresh look at the way we organize our teaching.

Why not do away with the timetable completely, give pupils a programme of work to do and allow them the freedom of the whole school in which to do it? That way the pupils have sufficient time to see a project through or follow up an investigation to its conclusion with the full facilities of the school at their disposal. Any appropriate room in the school may be used and any member of staff consulted.

Many infant and junior schools do it, and so do sixth forms and universities to a degree. But most secondary schools confine 30 pupils to a space within four walls, saying to the teacher, "They are yours for 40 minutes. Do what you can to teach your subject."

This type of organization was based on the need to impose the will of the teacher on the maximum number of children in an era when rote learning of facts was the paramount aim of education. But the aims formulated in curriculum documents recently produced by I.C.A.S. up and down the country have changed since those days.

Of course we can't change our ways overnight, but some experimentation is in order.

We gave the whole school what we thought would be a fortnight's work with the emphasis on problem-solving and it really seemed to get them going, judging from pupils' responses.

"This type of work definitely requires more thought, and I felt as if I had worked harder when I got home," said one.

We sorted our 320 pupils into groups of four: many thought they should

have chosen their own groups but one or two were more realistic.

"I don't think I would have worked better with my friends because we would be messing about most of the time," said Duane.

"We didn't have to stay cooped up in one room with one teacher all the time. We could go anywhere," Sandra recalled.

"It's easier to think about things with a change of scenery," Tracy thought.

Phillipa said, "Some of us seem to work better without teachers being present. I do! Also not being made to sit in the same place for hours helps relieve boredom."

Allowing them to take their morning and afternoon breaks when they thought appropriate was, "a good idea because you could quite easily lose interest in the work you are doing if you have to stop for a break," according to Mark.

"I think having a break when you liked was brilliant. Our group never had a break except for dinner," Kieron revealed.

"Everyone should bring a packed lunch in these weeks then you can have your lunch any time," suggested Tracey.

They valued the freedom to talk to each other about the work.

"You can have general talks about what you are doing rather than the teacher telling you to 'shut up' or 'be quiet it's too noisy'," Kate said.

"If you are stuck, normally you have to stand in a line until you see the teacher. But with the group you can talk to them instead," added James.

Helping each other can go too far for those of us fighting sex stereotyping: Julie recalled how "Some of the time Lellah and I did not know how we were going to make things so we just did what the boys told us to do."

One problem set was to make a container which allows only one pamphlet to be taken at a time.

"This was too hard for our group and a problem for a grown-up," Julie asked her dad how to do it, "and he said it was impossible. But Chris had his brain working and said it was not impossible. So Emily and I made a holder and it worked, but broke, so we gave up and helped Chris and Mark."

We tried to make the content of the worksheets balanced and cross-curricular, but not always with success. Adam complained, "My topic was rather boring, it was about water. I am an energetic person, and in water you had no PE."

Obviously this type of work is not suitable for all purposes.

"The problem-solving system wouldn't work for a long period of time, a year or a term, because normal lessons teach you what you need to know for problem solving," said Geoffrey, while Katie worried, "We don't do much work to help us do our exams when we do our problems."

But Daryl "would like school to be like this for ever, it would be brilliant." And Lynn "found that I learnt more in two weeks than I have ever done in normal lessons."

"I think I would probably have a nervous breakdown, all this hard work and rushing about all over the place. I've had it up to my head! Please no more problem solving ever again," pleaded Laura, while for Tim "it would be all right again, after a rest."

That last comment probably sums up the feelings of the staff too. Preparation and planning were extremely hard work, but the rewards during the fortnight made it all worthwhile.

This fortnight was the first stage in a long-term strategy and took place some two years ago. This year we devoted two days each week to problem-solving for half a term. The pupils have become increasingly enthusiastic as the quality of the experience has improved. From next September we should be ready to include such a scheme as a permanent element of the total curriculum.

Our school organization must enable pupils to approach open-ended challenges, problems and problem-solving with sensitivity and confidence: to research, experiment and develop ideas to articulate and communicate ideas in a variety of forms; to work in cooperation as a member of a team. These cannot be achieved with the existing emphasis on class teaching.

Tony Beauchamp is headteacher of Bacton Middle School, Suffolk.

Bash the teacher

MARGARET McALPINE

Where I live, teacher bashing seems to have overtaken car washing and lawn-mowing as a top leisure activity. A new and rapid breed of teacher bashers has emerged to remind those of us who, for dubious reasons - such as long holidays and short hours - belong to the teaching profession that we have been found out.

Clearly, the fact that we find time ever to put our noses outside the school doors proves that we are failing in our commitment. Supermarkets, pubs, children's playgrounds: these self-appointed vigilantes are everywhere. They lurk in the background, ready to pounce, demanding to know why, if we expect recognition from society for our professional services, we can have the temerity to post a letter, sit in a laundrette, or, crime beyond crime, go out for a drink.

There are muttered comments about a teacher who is seen driving away from school at 4 o'clock. Strangely, no one seems to comment on the two enormous bags she is heaving into the boot of her car, which might conceivably contain some marking. Doubtless if they were noticed, rumour would have it that the school video was being removed for the teacher's personal use.

Yet no one objects to the doctor having the temerity to do supermarket shopping in her hour. She can be seen regularly, the cornflakes when, if she had, he lingering near the ambulance, hoping to save a few lives.

The rules of the teacher bashing game are difficult to grasp, although helps to master the basic tenets. "They" refers to teachers en masse, is usually pronounced with a definite derogatory curl of the lip. "Every" is a vague term with no meaning but it is used frequently with intense vigour. The game consists of issuing statements such as: "Every one knows they've let standards slip over the years."

It's against the rules to inquire "everybody" is, or whether the standards refers to examinations, or to the state of interior decor inside classrooms. The golpokes moved regularly. Withdrawal by combat on the grounds that the adversary is either misinformed, emotional, or personally offensive, possibly all three, is taken as automatic proof of guilt.

"Weeding out" is a key phrase intended to strike terror into the hearts of all teachers. Increasingly I prefer retreat, and lie low until I "wee out" - presumably by the somewhat marketed anti-teacher spray, sold and available to all on demand.

Margaret McAlpine teaches at St Benedict's Upper School, Bay of Edmunds.



Up Pompeii

J. M. MILES

Every staff room in the land is ankle-deep these days in a relatively new phenomenon: the glossy brochures of the school travel agencies. Why do we do it? I don't mean why do we feel obliged to take children to ever more distant, improbable, and expensive locations (although that question could well be asked)? I mean why, when financial constraints are pinching so hard, do we enrich the travel companies when our schools could be pocketing the profits instead?

In July, a colleague and I from the Holy Child School, Birmingham, took a party of 29 to visit Pompeii and Herculaneum and other archaeological remains in that part of Italy. We were charged £275 for 10-day holiday. My colleague and I travelled free, and two other adults came along at half-price. We planned and arranged our own excursions, and that meant that we had them exactly as we wanted. We provided some treats: soft drinks for the pupils and wine for the adults with the evening meals; a restaurant lunch for all one day in Sorrento, as a change from mid-day sandwiches; a huge specially-commissioned cake on the last evening, bearing the legend "Up Pompeii 1985". We kept back enough money for refreshments when we invite the parents to school to see our slides and photographs and travel diaries. And we made a profit of just over £1,000.

The moral is: money talks. Even a party of ten people has considerable funds at its disposal, and can deal advantageously with airlines, coach companies, and hotels. The larger the group, the greater the savings.

A do-it-yourself school trip takes a certain amount of nerve and careful organisation - but so does any school trip. It is required of the organizers at least a primitive knowledge of the host country's language, but what possible educational value can the trip be if the teachers lack this?

It helped a lot to have two people working on it. We shared the work and worry, and checked each other's figures. Even the clearest head can get confused when costs have to be estimated in a foreign currency, multiplied by the number of pupils paying, divided by the number actually travelling - and that not once but again and again. I wrote a programme for a school computer to do it all, but I don't think either of us really trusted any result that we hadn't arrived at by hand on the back of an envelope.

We led a similar trip in 1983. Once you've done it, the second time is easy because you have a bank of known costs to estimate from. The first time, we used the school travel brochures (as well as the backs of many envelopes) as a guide to the price of the holiday. What, exactly did we want to offer our pupils? How much would it cost to use a travel company's package? The brochures were hard work, with lots of small print. We tried to think of all the possible extras such as group passport, insurance, travel from school to actual point of departure, meals en route, excursions at the holiday site. Then we had to subtract the cost of the free places which the travel company was offering. The result was a price which, to begin with, we simply prayed would be enough. The profit was a delightful surprise, and a lesson in the ways of the world.

We started collecting the money from the pupils by instalments a year ahead of the holiday date. We kept it in a National Savings Investment Account which seemed to offer the easiest access to high interest. Interest on these accounts is credited only at the end of the year, but it is calculated daily and the full amount was available when we closed the account.

We wrote to the Italian tourist agencies both in London and Sorrento (where we had decided to stay) for lists of accommodation and coach hire firms. The school travel brochures came into their own again here. Often, they name hotels and pensioni. We compared the lists we had received from the tourist agencies, and rang up several hotels directly, confident that they would know how to cater for English school parties. (Despite my brave words about learning the language, we roped in an Italian friend

for that bit.) We got quotations from several sources, and they differed considerably. The pensioni we finally settled on proved a great success. We went back there this year. Both times we made a firm reservation well in advance, and were asked to send a substantial deposit. The experienced committing a banker's draft for a large sum of money in the vagaries of the Italian postal service was probably the most nerve-racking moment for us on both trips, but all went well.

We went by train, sleeping in couchettes. We wanted our pupils to have the experience of "real" travel. I would recommend it, but the sophisticated and experienced weary young men might have preferred to fly. We weren't able to book the train more than three months in advance, nor even to get an absolutely firm price until then. In 1983 we booked through Thomas Rail, which proved as cheap and rather more efficient.

We learned in 1983 that while the trip is actually happening, it is what we write everything down - even if your colleague has already written it down, even if you're sure you'll remember, even if you resolve 36 hours into the experience that you are never going to repeat it.

Apart from the benefit to school funds, was our trip worth while? It was an easy question. While we were in Italy all our time and mental energy were devoted to the child who "can't eat this muck", the one whose class was going sick; the one whose class was stolen in the market; the one determined to pursue her romance with a representative of the local paparazzi.

What will the girls themselves remember, apart from those expensive excursions, distributing information and maps and finding them about each site they visited before we visited it. They have walked the streets of the world's most famous ghost town (at Pompeii), seen a real Greek temple, visited the volcanic gates of hell (at Lake Avernus), and they couldn't forget the delicious ice creams of Sorrento. Yes, it was probably worth while.

FEATURES

AFTER THE ACTION

A group of teacher-researchers from East Anglia University set out to discover the effects of the teachers' action. Most parents and pupils thought they were disastrous - but were they right? Here is the report.

His future is at stake", wrote the parent of a 16-year-old. Others said of the episode that it had "ruined the education of thousands of pupils" and was a "bad example." There was talk of "irresponsible teachers", and "teachers devalued by pupils" - plenty of parents were ready to subscribe to the disaster theory.

Our research was based on questionnaires and interviews, and the data was collected between January and April 1986. We found that many of the problems were domestic ones. Parents had to take time off work, and children returned from school unexpectedly. Parents also worried about the extra-curricular effects - the collapse of clubs in everything from weaving to trampolining and country dancing, curtailed sports, trips, the orchestra - the loss of the "memorable bits of education".

Others went further, and saw consequences for the moral fabric of education and society. The school ethic had been destroyed. The rhythms of schooling had been broken, and with it the motivation of the learner and the image of the teacher.

"Once the magic has gone, you will never get it back"

Pupils repeated: "Everything is full of gaps", or "I still don't think they should strike in our time". Shoplifting, drug-taking, truancy and indiscipline would rise, said a few of the adults. Pass-rates would fall, agreed many parents and pupils - "if we miss a lesson it might come up in the exam". Teachers weren't bothered any more, said the pupils. One group even organized an anti-teachers action strike. "Now they know who we are," said one of their leaders.

Those who subscribed to the Big Bang theory of the teacher action believed that the whole schooling ethic was collapsing. According to our analysis, one of the recurrent themes was the destruction of the 3Rs: rote, routine and respect. "Once the magic has gone you will never get it back."

But not everyone agreed about the effects. Quite a lot of parents reported no side-effects, and a lot of pupils felt better: "It hasn't really affected us that much - as much as we would have liked it to have done."

And there were advantages. The holidays came quicker. There was time-off to go downtown, see your friends. Some pupils liked being supervised by non-teachers - "real people who didn't nag all the time". A few even reported improvements in their education: "You learn to sort out your work for yourself."

Parental reactions varied. One scale ran from the trivial to the traumatic, from the increase in bridge-raids by early-returning offspring to the need to evacuate from the state to the private sector.

"This action is an example of greed and blackmail. For the pupil, respect for teachers has diminished"

Another theme was lack of visibility - how easy it was for teachers to make schools invisible to parents. No meetings, no extra-curricular activities, and parents were blind to their children's learning - often for a whole year. As a result, they tended to assume the worst - that the loss of learning was great. "Good" schools, or course, stayed visible.

Another scale of reactions ran from support for the teachers to a China Syndrome interpretation of their actions: "Crime has increased and so has shoplifting and drug-taking. All on top of poorer examination grades due to this action." Or: "This was an example of greed and blackmail. To the young pupil, respect for teachers has been diminished."

Some parents saw the teacher action as a double moral crisis, a betrayal of teaching responsibility and a modelling of industrial anarchy - "not in front of the children" seemed to be the message.

Of course, there were enthusiasts among the pupils. Many younger children were happy to accept unscheduled holidays. It even led to sibling rivalry. Older children were less keen and seemed to miss the schooling rather than the education: "Why should I help myself? Nobody's pushing me!" Or: "We keep being asked to do things the teacher should do," or: "You have to struggle to get anything out of the teacher."

We discovered that reactions fell into three categories, according to the age of the children.



As a group of teachers, we too felt the seriousness of the teachers' action. In some cases, we were part of it. But our data did not seem fully to support the Big Bang theory of disastrous consequences.

One secondary school we looked at lost 1.7 per cent of teacher contact time. Another school gained in teacher contact time. A comparison of 1984 and 1985 teacher absences showed that in 1984, 94 days were lost, 46 through illness and 48 through in-service training.

In 1985, 69 days were lost - 17 through strike action, 33 through illness and 19 through in-service training.

A nearby county reported salary deductions for teachers' action of £91,000 over eight months, the chief education officer commenting that it was a deceptive statistic since although many teachers had formally taken action and lost pay, they also worked especially hard in order to "maintain goodwill".

"The strike is not proving nothing, the teachers worked us on the last day of term"

Catching-up was frequently reported as well. Teachers may be unusual in that they tend to take industrial action and increase productivity at the same time. A bitter pupil thought so. He reported that the strike was "not proving nothing" and that the teachers "worked us on the last day of term".

We concluded that what the teachers' action revealed was not how things have changed, but how things really are. Above all, both pupils and parents seem to share a depressing view of "good" education.

Good education involves predictability, assumes that less means worse, and more means better, emphasizes jobs, exam passes, homework, being in authority, and taking responsibility for children's learning. Good pedagogy means practice and revision.

Outside of these instrumental and ethical concerns education was seen - in its absence - as child-minding, and a lot of resentments involved the social inconvenience of a disrupted schooling.

Finally, we were struck by the impossibility of ever knowing the effects of the action on pupil learning. The learning theories are too crude; the scales too idiosyncratic. The meter each person uses to measure the effects is his or her own theory of learning. Everyone we talked to - parents, children of all ages, citizens, school governors - had a learning theory they were using to judge the impact of the teacher action on students.

"Why should I help myself? Nobody's pushing me"

These theories were expressed in crude behaviourist terms such as motivation, continuity, time, transfer of attitude and behaviour from teacher to students. Students emphasized the disruption of continuity, missing classes, unpredictability, losing out on the expected routines of schooling, the dependence on teachers' direction.

No doubt, judgements on the effects of the action will be made this summer, when the examination results are published. We can look forward to a statistical silly season, with all proofs appropriate to the initial prejudice. But we will end up no wiser.

A more fruitful inquiry might begin with the implicit scales with which pupils and parents measure the consequences of the teacher action. That way, we might at least learn how education is defined and evaluated by its consumers. Perhaps it is that aspect on which the teachers' action can throw most light.

So the problem of evaluating the teachers' action is this. We are all blind to learning. It is an invisible act for which we have extremely crude instruments for identifying present levels, or any changes in level over time. We have a problem, therefore, of over-confident "readings", no scales, and invisible phenomena. Little wonder that all we can hear on every side is the sound of axes grinding.

The inquiry was carried out by a group of teacher-researchers who are completing the part-time MA in applied research at the Centre for Applied Research in Education, School of Education, University of East Anglia. Information from Prof. Stronach at the university.

Rock answers

NEIL NIXON

In his article "Dirty rock" (TES, May 30), Peter Mullen attacked pop music in general and the New Musical Express in particular for its "growing obsession with vicious sex". He concluded that the NME represented "an unanswerable case for censorship".

Mr Mullen shows no insight into youth culture and its products. In one glaring error, he labels the NME as a "fanzine". A fanzine is a small independent publication with a specific and limited readership. The NME is a general music paper with a large readership.

This may appear trivial, but if we put it in the context of Peter Mullen's working life it is the equivalent of equating the views of Ian Paisley and Dr Donald Coggan on the grounds that both are ministers.

The distinction between types of publication is clear to most pop fans, who act in a similar way to other cultural groups - such as teachers - by developing codes and ideas that give insiders status by being impenetrable to outsiders.

As an outsider, Mr Mullen totally fails to understand that heavy metal bands such as Motley Crue do not glorify the vicious aspects of sex. Heavy metal music contains a good deal of humour, which it uses to deal with anxieties central to the lives of its listeners. It is not stretching credibility too far to suggest that Motley Crue do for some teenagers what Benny Hill does for their parents. Most people do not take Benny Hill literally.

I'm not suggesting all heavy metal bands are comedy acts - it's a lot more subtle than that. But they are not in the business of creating a cult of mindless aspiring-deviants either.

Certainly, the messages in the music can be misunderstood but so can any other message. If Mr Mullen holds heavy metal music accountable for the awful Ealing vicarage attack, he may as well hold the New Testament re-

sponsible for the crimes of Charles Manson. Manson did, after all, base his insane actions on his own bizarre interpretations of the book of Revelation.

Peter Mullen credits the young with little intelligence. The NME has always made a point of providing its readers with a good deal of information on which to base their own opinions, in a language that its readers understand.

It does deal with sex, and in some cases it deals with pop stars who use a sexual angle in their image. But, in this respect, the NME has been much more restrained than both the daily papers and the glossy magazine end of the music press.

The NME also does a lot to widen the cultural awareness of its readership. More than any other music paper, it has pushed the cause of black music in general, and specifically soul and reggae, to a white audience.

COME OUT HERE, YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION

Black music provides an understandable and accessible way into the cultural background of ethnic minority groups. To many young people living outside the inner cities, this is the first contact they have with these sections of the community. The value of the NME in spreading this awareness should not be overlooked.

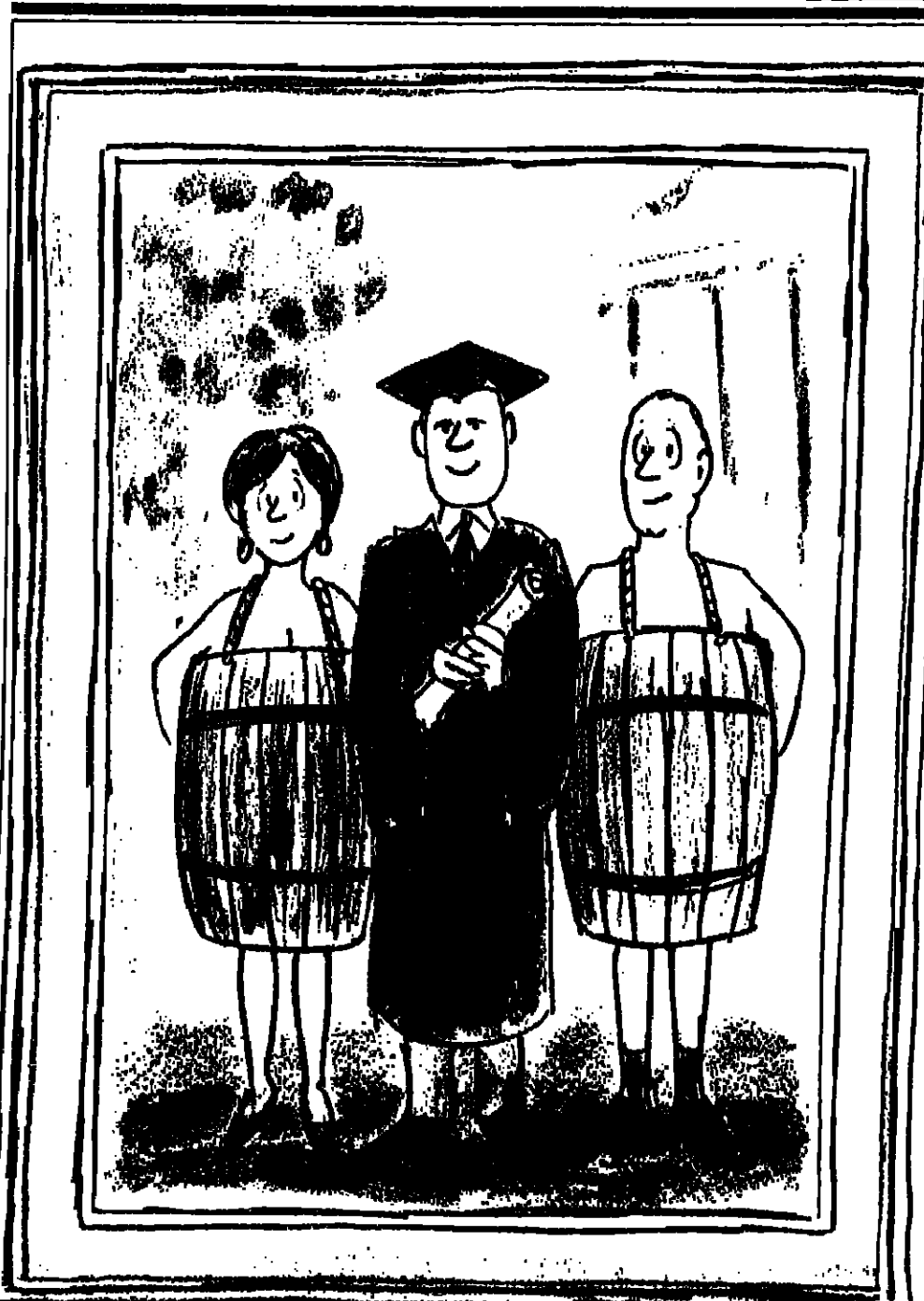
I am not trying to make out a case for a social services grant to the NME, but I hope I have provided some answers to Mr Mullen's "unanswerable case". As an NME reader of 10 years' standing, I am still not corrupted or depraved...

much. And, as a lecturer in a technical college, I am close to the people Peter Mullen is so worried about.

Neil Nixon is lecturer in communication studies at Thurrock Technical College in Essex.

FEATURES

FEATURES



An American view of student loans. Drawing by W. Miller © The New Yorker Inc.

Survival of the fattest

Conrad Russell on the likely side-effects of a switch to student loans

It seems very odd that the rest of the world is looking to the American way of organizing student loans just when, to many people in the United States, the system appears to be on its last legs, and middle-income families are beginning to discover the financial burden almost insupportable.

Student loans can be an economically viable proposition, granted three conditions. The first is a low real rate of interest. Through much of the 1970s, when interest rates were sometimes as low as 3 per cent, debtors were able to say "inflation will take care of that". But since 1981, rising rates of interest combined with falling rates of inflation have made the burden far more severe.

The second precondition of success is a high salary structure. Substantial rates of pay alone do not make a loans system viable, as the default rate among American doctors illustrates, but they are very important. In this country, where professional salaries are between 25 and 50 per cent lower than the US, it is hard to see the average starting salary for a university graduate making the payment of loans possible.

If the Government were proposing increases of 25 to 50 per cent in all public sector salaries, the loan proposal would be worth discussion. But if it were to cost the salary increases necessary to prevent loans from having a devastating effect on teacher recruitment, for example, it might find that the notion that loans would save public money was somewhat illusory.

The third precondition of a successful loans system is low average house prices. For most of

the American middle classes, a house and college education are the two big demands on borrowing, and outside Manhattan and the San Francisco Bay area, the house is not always the more expensive of the two. In the south-east of England, on the other hand, the cost of a house is likely to use up almost all the borrowing resources of the average professional income.

This proposition may be tested by using the banks' (perhaps optimistic) rule that borrowers can be loaned three times their gross annual income.

Assume a student loan of £10,000 (itself a conservative assumption), and then add a mortgage of £30,000 - which in the London area would not take a first-time buyer much beyond a one-bedroomed flat. This makes a total borrowing of £40,000, demanding, by the banks' rule, a salary of £13,300.

Is it the Government's intention that this should become a normal starting salary for a teacher, or even for a university lecturer? If that is the intention, has it asked whether it would be paying Peter to rob Paul? Has it also asked whether the interest on student loans would attract tax relief, and if so, whether this would be in addition to the £30,000 limit allowed on mortgages?

Is so, has it considered the warnings on the inflationary character of the private sector wage requirement? Can we, in fact, afford the economic consequences of driving our public school classes much deeper into debt?

One of the clearest features of the US system

is the effect of loans in driving graduates towards high-salary occupations, and especially in promoting the Geadarene rush towards law school. It is hard to predict what equivalent would emerge in this country, but one possibility would be increased emigration of graduates to countries with higher salary levels.

At present, this country has some significant compensations for low salary levels, of which the most important are the National Health Service and the system of student grants, between them worth some 20 per cent on salary levels by comparison with the US, or 40 per cent for anyone with teenage children.

Take both these advantages away, and one of the forces which does most to restrain academics, for example, from emigrating to the United States would be completely removed. Skilled manpower has been one of this country's major exports for some 350 years, but there is a danger that we might reach *reductio ad absurdum*.

It is also likely that loans would have a serious effect on postgraduate education, as they do in the US. An undergraduate debt of \$10,000-\$20,000 is manageable on a US salary structure. But a combined undergraduate/postgraduate debt of \$30,000 to \$40,000 is an altogether different proposition. We might well find, in these circumstances, that it was difficult to keep independent research going.

It is no answer to suggest financing of research by private companies: the best work is not done by turning people into a sort of tied cottage, and the most important research questions are the ones, such as Newton's, which were not even perceived to be questions until they were asked.

It is sometimes pointed out that the British system of student support is the most generous in the western world. It is not so often pointed out that this must necessarily be related to the fact that we have one of the lowest salary levels. It is not easy to change one without changing the other.

We also have one of the lowest student wage rates anywhere in the western world. Few people who have taught in the US will doubt that these facts are connected. The financially-induced dropout, a daily feature of teaching elsewhere, has until recently been mercifully rare here. The need that leads to university selection is no doubt a case of survival of the fittest, but there is surely a case for preferring the survival of the fittest to the survival of the fattest.

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clocked in as the winners. A final session of reporting back and assessment included a long string of comments such as: "Different from anything I've done in maths before"; "Feeling a sort of team spirit working on a group project and a sense of satisfaction when finished"; "Friendliness of everybody"; "Not enough time on certain activities"; "I can't remember being bored for longer than five seconds. I think this is because most things we did were at least a bit intellectually challenging."

We adjourned to the open-air stage for a potted comic history of mathematics. Yassas was three orthogonal dimensions sought high and low for their fourth friend, sadly concluding that time flies, pi was rediscovered and we admitted the findings of Archimedes, Kepler, Halley and a new Newton inspired by a cartoon of supermarket apple juice.

Mr George waved us goodbye. He had puzzled about how we were going to do maths for a whole weekend. He stopped wondering when he brought in apple pies the first evening and met with a dispute: into how many pieces could you divide the pie with just four straight cuts? Nine? Ten? More? Could you prove it?

The staff's efforts to run uphill, against the wind, in boots, provoked both blisters and merry spectators, but we just saved our reputations and

Human rights in action

Hugh Starkie discusses the importance of the European Convention on Human Rights to schools, and Jeremy Cunningham describes how one school has put it into practice.

In May 1985, Sir Keith Joseph and the other European education ministers signed the Council of Europe's recommendation on "the teaching and learning about human rights in schools". In France, every headteacher received a copy of the text with a supporting letter from the minister. In Britain, the recommendation is unknown. Either the Department of Education and Science doesn't really believe in human rights or else it doesn't see the point of promoting them in schools.

The recommendation suggests that the positive way of looking at anti-racism, anti-sexism and special needs is through human rights: education for justice and peace.

Since 1978, the Council of Europe has been developing a programme of teaching and learning about human rights in schools. Teachers from all European countries have been developing classroom approaches and school policies. This interesting work deserves to be more widely known.

Human rights, as a set of values, command support from the international community. The European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms is legally binding on the nations of Western Europe. Beyond Europe, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights is accepted as a worldwide moral standard.

In multi-ethnic Britain, there is a need to reassert the values of effective democracy, freedom and equality which protect minorities. Everyone is part of a minority in some respects. The modern human rights conventions and declarations (the UN Universal Declaration of 1948 and the European Convention of 1950) were developed and adopted in the immediate aftermath of the Second World War. The Holocaust and Hiroshima symbolize the ultimate abuse of human rights and human dignity.

The great post-war statements and conventions on human rights are designed to ensure that such events can never be allowed to be perpetrated again. And yet racism and intolerance are on the increase. Teachers have an urgent task.

The European Convention on Human Rights maintains that justice and peace in the world are founded on certain fundamental freedoms. These are essentially:

- Freedom from discrimination on the grounds of "sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status";
- Freedom from arbitrary death and arrest or torture or degrading treatment by the authorities or their agents;
- Freedom from slavery and exile;
- Freedom of thought, conscience, and religion;
- Freedom of expression and peaceful assembly;
- Freedom to have a fair trial and a fair legal process;
- Freedom of movement, to marry and found a family, to own property, to privacy, to have a nationality.

In short, these are the freedoms that make an "effective political democracy" possible.

The idea of human dignity is particularly important in an educational setting. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights refers to the "inherent dignity and... the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family". This dignity is to be preserved from abuse by the authorities and, by extension, by all those institutions and individuals in positions of power. One person's right to free speech should not, for instance, be at the expense of another person's right to dignity.

The articles of the European convention start with the word "everyone". Rights are for all and the convention thus guarantees equality of rights and equality before the law and indeed equality of dignity. Schools and other institutions, including states, need to have a framework which provides security for all and an effective guarantee of rights and freedoms.

The rights and freedoms of the European convention are a package. It is not possible to be

selective about which rights you apply. All rights and freedoms are equally important. It is equally misleading to stress freedom, rather than equality and dignity, or to emphasize equality while neglecting freedoms.

Much work in human rights education is already taking place in Britain. Very little of it is currently seen as human rights work. Anti-racism, anti-sexism, political and social education, world studies, development education, school councils, all have human rights as their values. The relevance of teaching and learning about human rights is surely self-evident.

For a copy of the text of the recommendation R(85)7 "On teaching and learning about human rights in schools" and for further details of the Council of Europe's programme write to the DES or contact: Mairiand Stobart, Deputy Director of Education Culture and Sport, Council of Europe, BP431 R6, 67006 Strasbourg Cedex, France.

Disputes procedures

Personal disputes, conflicts and misunderstandings are common features of life in large institutions. In schools they should not be seen as irritating interruptions to the real job of teaching subjects, but as events which have an important bearing on people's moral growth.

Platitudes such as "a sensitivity and concern for other people" or "education of the whole person", which often appear in school statements of aims, are not always much help in resolving tricky moral or social problems.

Moreover, the staff likely to have the time to deal with more serious matters often act as detectives, interrogators, judges, and counsellors all rolled into one. The basic values of fairness and tolerance can easily be forgotten in the heat of the moment, and youngsters can end up with a jaundiced view of "justice" which is all the more likely to lead to further problems instead of an appreciation of the rights of others.

The guidelines given here, developed with the help of colleagues at the Sutton Centre in Nottinghamshire, provide a simple "due process" whose values are those of basic rights and responsibilities.

Investigation
"Everyone shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty."

Always carefully assemble the facts. Anger or hostility should not be shown to a suspect. Opening questions should be of the "What happened this morning?" type - not "Why did you act in such a way?" Any statements that will be used should be read back.

In a complaint against someone, the "plaintiff" should be interviewed first. Written statements can help clarify any differences. Individuals can be asked to name someone they trust to be fair (not a close friend) to be a witness. If two people are accused of something, interview them separately.

In a fight the physically injured party is not necessarily guiltless.

Where a teacher has a serious complaint against a student (and vice versa) both parties must have a fair, private, hearing.

Resolution
An incident or dispute must be accepted by all parties as finished. A statement, apology or symbolic gesture is necessary.

Both parties should be asked clearly if they are satisfied with the solution or compromise. The teacher resolving a dispute for others becomes an injured party if anyone breaks the agreement.

If remorse is clear and sincere (there's the rub) there may be no need for further action. A kind of

suspended sentence may be appropriate and effective - but remember to consider any injured party.

Restitution
This means paying back for injury and should not be confused with sanctions. Although it is difficult to pay back for individual physical or mental suffering, restitution to the school community is important.

Any misdemeanour costs time, energy and goodwill. Through doing something useful for the school, the offender has a chance to gain self-respect. As the aim is not revenge, restitution does not necessarily involve an unpleasant job.

Sanction
"No one should be subjected to... degrading treatment or punishment."

Sanctions are a symbol of a school's determination not to tolerate violation of individual or community rights. The aim is deterrence.

Physical punishment, having been found to be contrary to Article 3 of the European convention, has no place in an institution determined to foster respect for human rights and responsibilities.

The aim should be to develop an ethos where mild sanctions should seem to be severe, because they are used so seldom and then with the utmost seriousness.

The double-jeopardy rule in British law says that you should not be punished twice for the same offence. Family sanctions should be taken into consideration, especially where it is known they are more severe than the school's. It is essential to work closely with the family.

Where there has been no resolution or restitution, sanctions, however severe, will nearly always seem unsatisfactory, because the injured party is not usually involved.

Suspension is the school's means of expressing its total rejection of actions grossly violating the rights of others. It can be used to achieve resolution or it may be necessary in order to protect other members of the school.

Communication
Any resolution, restitution or sanction for a major dispute must be with parents' knowledge and agreement. It is sometimes tempting to deal with a matter by promising immunity from parental involvement in return for information or a confession. There should be no secrets between school and home, unless the child is at risk from parental violence.

We should not allow people to gain any impression that we dislike them personally. If possible we should refer to achievements or positive characteristics in order to convey that we have no fixed view of them as basically bad. Most people in trouble are searching for opportunities to rebuild a positive self-image.

Any injured party should not be forgotten. Those who suffer need the assurance that the school is working for them, not simply pursuing some abstract system of justice. We should ensure that they play their part in the resolution. At least they should be informed of the outcome, not just left to find out.

We must be aware of our own prejudices, guarding against racism, sexism, classism. Does the well-mannered articulate youngster receive more time or fairer treatment than the tongue-tied or brusque one? Do we respond differently to girls in trouble than to boys?

For school justice, the medium is the message. We will threaten our basic values, not uphold them, if we allow ourselves to short-cut due process in order to achieve vigorous looking responses.

This does not mean that troublesome youngsters should have all the attention. The teachers have a right to institutional support, and a fair disputes procedures should never give teachers the impression that no one cares for them.

A disciplinary system can be merely a list of rules and punishments. There needs to be an explicit statement of values, and a disputes procedure based firmly on them. If young people are to grow to respect the rights of others, we have to grow to be their example.

MATHS FOR A WHOLE WEEKEND

Ann Glennerster

They were scribbling away on clipboards, sketching the characteristic gravestone designs and noting names and dates. One greeted me with: "I shall have to stop soon. My hands are too cold and I can't write with my gloves on."

Inside the parish church we found the large leather visitors' book. We signed, adding "together with half-a-dozen others from Burlington Danes School who did much mathematical investigation into the graveyard statistics."

Of course our findings were biased. Paupers are not treated to engraved tablets, but we found out far more than we had ever expected and raised questions which all researchers in the social sciences need to face.

Yes, we found that women live longer than men, on average an extra 10 years - although one widow outlived her husband by half-a-century. (What does that figure do to the mean? Check with the median.) The 10-year gap was true consistently over two centuries. Meanwhile the lifespan went up for both sexes by 10 years.

Should we include infant mortality in these figures? The immediate response was "Why over not?" Looking at the numbers changed the question: "But if you don't include infant deaths, where do you draw the line?" and the discussion moved on to government statistics.

Home for the 48-hour weekend was HISOO, a large house in the tiny scattered village of Barham, Kent. Mr and Mrs George, the owners, provided splendid meals, in much style, at regular intervals but otherwise left us with the run of the house and a classroom hut.

Twenty sixth-formers, seven staff including several newcomers, and a student had gathered for a weekend of mathematics. For the staff, normally divided between two buildings, this was an opportunity to get to know each other better. All of us were strangers to at least one of the sixth, but that was changed on the Friday evening. The first night was a "paper maths" and

included two team challenges: to build the highest tower given a single sheet of newspaper, and to create a paper shelter for a standing adult. Eventually two slender spires survived, one reaching a metre-and-a-half. Meanwhile, five teams were producing vast lengths of newspaper tubing. The structures that emerged would have provided ample diagrams for any chapter on "rods and frameworks".

Saturday started with class teaching. "Water-tap arithmetic" flowed fast, progressing from very simple plumbing systems to tangled electric circuits. Reducing these to a more elegant form required an algebraic tool set, and before long we had learnt a lot of Boolean algebra and even made the connection with the algebra of sets and logic.

A 20-minute break for our particular drug: a dose of pool, a go on the micro or just a coffee, and we were ready for the next onslaught: two problems from the Spode investigations.

Most of the sixth-form would be voting for the first time in the next general election. Did they believe in proportional representation and if so what are the mathematical implications? We



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asked each group to work out an ideal system and then to apply it to a given pattern of votes. It soon became clear that we had few purists and we ended with several modified versions where "first past the post" was mixed with a proportional element to counter-balance obvious discrepancies.

In the second room, the problem was one of office management, and of how to maximize use of the lifts in order to get the staff to their offices on time.

The afternoon was for "mathematics and the environment". We were deliberately vague. If the weather smiled it was obviously a time for fresh air. All we said was: "If you fancy designing an orienteering course, there are maps and compasses, and we could make time tomorrow for others to follow the route. We also have surveying equipment." One teacher added: "I am going to the churchyard and anyone is welcome to join me."

Everyone dispersed rapidly with the exception of one small group, huddled together. These were the very people who had pleaded that there should be time for walking. What was keeping them now, I asked. "We've discovered an open-air theatre in the grounds. Can we put on a show?"

They did. That evening, at the late-night disco, they presented a slick cabaret. Between the jokes they threw themselves bodily into forming a rapid series of equations. The two Ruths each curled into the shape of a 2 and provided copious possibilities using 2 Ruth 2, with two flattened bodies for an equals sign.

The upper sixth also provided a mathematical bingo where you won your mark if you were first to answer what is e^{π^2} ? Double sine (π) by 2π ? factorial 4? This they followed with a superbly organized quiz, complete with buzzers and lights.

The questions ranged over the history of mathematics, from the integral of $\frac{1}{x}$ and how many noughts has a Googol, to questions such as: "The year of the Battle of Hastings minus the

PM's house number?" "How many semiquavers in a semibreve?" or "Name Beethoven's Sixth Symphony". Muri, the compe, conducted the whole of the show with great style and expertise.

His cool composure was shaken only once and for the briefest moment. "What are the factors of $a^2 + b^2$?" The teachers' light was back on. Back $a^2 + b^2$? The answer: "(a + ib)(a - ib)". I meant the real factors. "But you didn't say so." (This also called for some rapid explanations in the back row.)

We thought our games might be an anticlimax but soon the room was transformed and we had two groups clustered tightly, everyone, eyes shut, grabbing two loose hands and, eyes reopened, disentangling their knotted selves. After much stepping over and crawling under, the empirical evidence suggested we could always end in a ring.

After guessing games, musical numbers, tick, leapfrog, and finding your family of polygons, the disco seemed quite subdued. Sunday morning was cold with clear blue skies enhancing the gentle Kent farmland. There were no concessions to lying in bed. Breakfast at eight, the concentrated hour of Aristotle's logic and Zeno's paradoxes. We puzzled over Epimenides the Cretan's remark, "All Cretans are liars", and we sorted a profusion of Lewis Carroll syllogisms.

Then there was a choice. Lots of people were frantically sorting graveyard statistics, one group was evoking the results of its survey of Bell House Tower at Canterbury Cathedral, but many chose the orienteering. Three teams set off at timed intervals. Equations provided the clues to map readers, and you had to be pretty confident of your compass bearings before you plunged straight through a thicket and into the midst of a swiftly pond to find the next station.

The staff's efforts to run uphill, against the wind, in boots, provoked both blisters and merry spectators, but we just saved our reputations and

BOOKS

On being a student

Hugh David reviews the latest guides

Some things never change. Their hair may be shorter, their aims and career goals more focused, but students remain what students were. On campus they still demand good discos, friendliness, extensive sporting facilities and big-name bands at the monthly union bash. Off, they continue to prefer living in cheap shared flats (average weekly rents: £32 in London, £17 in the provinces) and coping – and cooking – for themselves.

That's the picture which emerges from a pile of recent books on becoming – and remaining – a student. It is also clear that most find the whole process a Great Adventure. But for few it is still a lark. As David Acres points out in *How to Get to College* (Pitman Publishing £2.95, 0 7121 0662 6) Britain's universities and CNAAs colleges turned over more than 115,000 graduates last year, and most of them gained their BAs, BEds, BEngs or BScs after a five-year course which started the moment they entered the sixth form.

Acres, a senior lecturer and student counsellor at Plymouth Polytechnic, charts this wittily and well with a series of quizzes and check-lists on such subjects as choosing a course, coping with UCAS, PCAS and other application forms and the all-important business of obtaining a grant.

Taking a rather more serious line, but covering much the same ground, are two separate booklets whose publication has been sponsored by the

Midland Bank. *Getting into University* (£2.25, 0 85660 1047) and *Getting into Colleges and Institutes of Higher Education* (£2.25, 0 85660 1071) are available from Career Consultants at 12/14 Hill Rise, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 6UA.

Necessarily realistic, Brian Heap and Stephen Lamley begin the former by quoting another statistic: every year roughly 160,000 school-leavers apply for a mere 70,000 university places. Attempting to ensure that their readers are among this year's successful 70,000 they too counsel the five-year approach, viewing the sixth-form as a vital preparation period for university. Since there are only 51 universities in Great Britain (excluding the OU and the independent University of Buckingham) they are also able to cram thumb-nail sketches of each into 8 of their booklets' 50 pages. Equally thorough in every other respect, the companion booklet covering the vastly greater number of colleges and CEs can only include a list of names and addresses.

But even thumb-nail sketches reduce the most vibrant institution to

little more than an address, a note of its total number of students and the date of its foundation. Take the University of Exeter: *Getting into University* merely states that it is situated one mile from the city centre and has 4,145 students. Would-be applicants should be aware that it is "full of Sloane Rangers", a fact they will only get from *Student Eye* (CRAC Publications, £11.00 0 86021 772 8). A mine of such essential information, the volume has been gleaned from the "alternative prospectuses" put out by most universities and college student unions. It is one of two books to which every would-be student should have access. Nothing else, short of the ruinously expensive "milk round" of visits, will give the same wide-and-all picture of an institution, certainly not its own official prospectus.

The descriptions are accurate too; recent graduates who road-tested the sections on their own particular colleges found little or nothing with which to quarrel. (And nor did I: London University's Institute of Education seems not to have changed at all in the past 10 years!)

The other indispensable book is *The Student Book 86/87* (Macmillan Papermac £7.95, 0 333 38744 9). Indeed, if there is only room for one guide for would-be students on the careers room book-shelf this is it. Its 650 pages contain everything anyone applying to what it calls a UKCPU – United Kingdom college, polytechnic or university – could possibly want to know. They contain a great number of printing and literal errors too, but one can overlook those in the face of the wealth of information on every aspect of application procedures which they provide.

The bulk of the book is taken up by detailed descriptions of every UKCPU. Though not as outspoken as those in *Student Eye* (Exeter is more politely described as "largely middle-class") these are far better than nothing, listing academic and social facilities as well as cheap and nearby pubs and restaurants. Equally useful are a group of authoritative essays by a panel of academics on what it means to study some 70 subjects at university or college level. Students – and their teachers – will gain much from them.

But student life is more than studying. *The Student Book* takes note of this with a section on survival tactics for the first year away from home. Surprisingly thorough, this has advice on avoiding AIDS, changing courses and coping with poverty, among other things. Parents will be pleased.

Mothers in particular will also welcome *The Student's Cookbook* (Faber £2.95, 0 571 13522 6). Rendering descriptions of typical off-campus accommodation contained in *How to Get to College*, they might well fear for their offspring's stomachs. But Jenny Baker's book knows all about the realities of student life. It begins with instructions on how to heat a can of baked beans and goes on to include a wide range of recipes demanding little culinary skill and no expensive ingredients. In many cases they can also be cooked with no more than a Baby Belling stove and one large saucepan.

Students will like it for its sheer practicality – a corkscrew heads the list of essential kitchen implements – but many graduates will find it a source of pure nostalgia, for if students don't change, then nor do their appetites. Fellow alumni and more recent friends will discover the age-old secrets of my spaghetti bolognese on page 61.

Peter Wilby's excellent *The Sunday Times Good University Guide* has now been republished in an expanded and updated edition (Grafton Books £6.95).

PAPER BACKS

Michael Foucault died in 1984, and his work is currently the subject of intense assessment, not always favourable. Edited by Paul Rabinow, *The Foucault Reader* (Penguin £5.95) includes some unpublished interviews with Foucault and extracts from his works, especially *Discipline and Punish* and *The History of Sexuality*, giving a fair sampler of his style and approach to his central concerns, in particular the history of social institutions.

Reinventing Modern Political Theory. By John Dunn. (CUP £8.50). The object of these interesting essays is to uncover the essential reasons for the sterility of contemporary political theory. Dunn proposes something different, embodying a notion of prudence (deriving from Locke) that would deal matter-of-factly with actual, urgent issues in a practical manner, so far as is presently possible, eschewing grandiose, visionary solutions ultimately relying on some sort of *deus ex machina*.

The Idea of Poverty. By Gertrude Himmelfarb. (Faber £11.50). This novel and arresting work studies some of the marked changes that took place during the Industrial Revolution in England in conceptions of poverty, the poor, and of the measures needed to alleviate or do away with this human and social incubus. Essential reading for any student of the period.

Full Marx

Thomas Sowell's *Marxism: Philosophy and Economics* (Unwin £3.95) is a lucid short account of Marxism. The author makes, as far as possible, a direct interpretation of the study of the philosophic and economic framework of Marx's ideas without resorting to modern concoctions of Marxism. Sowell provides an invaluable guide to the theory of politics and revolution to argue that although early Marxism was "dominated by a bookish perspective... it became blind to facts and deaf to humanity and freedom". Having stated that, Marxism continues "to

put opponents on the moral defensive".

The Essential Left, edited by David McLellan (new edition, Unwin £3.95), contains five texts of classical Marxist works which aim to "illustrate the broad scope of Marxist thought". The texts, each with a short introduction by the author, cover theories of economics (Marx's "Value, Price and Profit"), the centrality of politics ("The Communist Manifesto"), Lenin's "State and Revolution", Mao Tse-tung's "On Contradiction", and the historical roots of Marxist socialism (Engels's "Socialism: Utopian and Scientific"). This book will help to explain "the migration of Marxism from West to East" and the fact that Marxism holds sway in countries that have not had an "advanced technological base".

In a teacup

Adult Education and the Cold War. By Roger T. Fieldhouse. In *Adult Education* £4.95, 0 907644 03 1.

Anyone who has taught for the "Responsible Bodies" in adult education (the WEA and the university extra-mural departments) will smile wryly at the thought of their clientele being susceptible to indoctrination by politically motivated tutors. But in the

post-war years, as we moved without a break from our alliance with the Soviet Union into the Cold War, worries were felt in high places that the wrong people were being appointed by these bodies; and especially in the civilian contribution to adult education in HM Forces and in the West African colonies, it was thought wise for the employing agencies to avoid taking on staff thought to be "communist" or "pro-Soviet".

In a remarkably detailed piece of research, Dr Fieldhouse examines how the advocates of the liberal tradition responded to this pressure.

Colin Ward

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Bear truths

USSR: From an original idea by Karl Marx. By Marc Polonsky and Russell Taylor. Faber £3.95, 571 13842 X.

The problem is not how to be unprejudiced, but how to be unprejudiced. This is the only book I know which attempts successfully to be funny about the USSR. And in doing so it frees some shrewd aperçus than are to be found in many an ostensibly serious heavyweight.

It gets top marks straight away for starting at the airport. Travellers and sociological studies too often struggle the reader through customs without so much as a whiff of the smells which alone provide so many clues for a traveller to any country. Polonsky and Taylor give a superbly slick and accurate account of what goes on at Sheremetyevo-2, even if they don't mention the fusion of disinfectant and down-market Gauloises which never leaves your clothes from that moment on.

In being neither apologists nor apologetic, the authors are often able to deliver a refreshing swipe at East and West at one go: rather like a frivolous version of Czeslaw Milosz. So, under "Choosing a drink with your meal" the very simple Russian priority (intoxication) is set against a biting description of the Western wine-list ritual; and there are some interesting reflections on pornography too.

Individuality, and differing concepts of it, is quite rightly the work's leitmotif. Everything, from dress to smiling habits, from transport to shopping, is a variation on the theme. I would add, to their list of useful expressions ("Mir! Druzhal! Nelzay! = Peace! friendship! it is forbidden!"), the magic password "Grup" (=group) which got me everywhere (well, almost) I wanted to go.

With Gorbachev at the helm, and a greased-lightning reform on hand, the second, the book will need pretty rapid updating. Hotel floor ladies (Chechen updates), for instance, were up-to-date down bottles lined up on tourist bars, rows of coffee cups now replace the alcoholic. But leaving aside facts and fiction, the truth, as the authors know, is stranger, sadder, funnier and more compelling. Time-consuming compulsion to go, or refuse to do so, it is worth every trouble.

Hilary Finch

Agents of change

Brian Morton on growing old, staying young, having fun, feeling good – and on the people who write about it for a living



Beating Time: Riot 'n' Race 'n' Rock 'n' Roll. By David Widgery. Chitto/Tigerstrip £6.95, 0 7011 2985 9. Ask: The Chatter of Pop, By Paul Morley. Faber £6.95, 0 571 13813 6.

A rare diverting moment on the BBC's *Whistle Test* 10 days ago. The music, as it does these days, sounded much like out-takes from the late Sixties. But then came the inevitable "interview", on location with *The Damned*. That itself was worth a heat: the rudest, loudest, trashiest of the English punk bands lying down a new album in dairy-fed, soft-porn Denmark and apparently very much at peace with the world. The music, too, is a surprise, not a new song at all but "I. A Woman" by The Doors, the song that more or less marked the end of the hippie era.

Nobody demands spitting and four-letter words these days. (Bill Grundy virtually insisted on curses from the Sex Pistols during their infamous *Today* interview on Thames Television in 1979.) Instead, polite and rational talk and a little harmless clowning. Most surprising – given name and track record – is the apparent socialization of Rat Scabies, still easily the most authentic of the punk drummers. No nostalgia for the old rough-and-ready days up the Rocky? Not a shred; they weren't all they were cracked up to be. Just like the Sixties that everyone gets so worked up about. "The Sixties weren't much. It was just youngsters having fun." And that's about the most honest and exact definition you'll ever get.

The whole phenomenon defies categorization. Pop is exactly the right word: popular, of the people; but also the sound of surprise, noisy and "empty". Seriousness has always been its worst enemy. No one makes triple album "concept" sets any more and there have been more worthy attempts to bring pop out of its protracted adolescence into maturity. The question is whether such attempts are really worthwhile, whether pop isn't in the end irredeemably irresponsible, and wonderfully so.

Punk was youngsters having fun being bad; Live Aid was youngsters having fun being good; the Rock Against Racism carnivals and tours of the late Seventies, subject of David Widgery's *Beating Time*, were youngsters having fun in a good cause.

RAR began in the wake of the vicious killing of a young Bengali clothing worker in Whitechapel. Altab Ali's death was merely the most flagrant of a growing number of racial attacks, symptomatic of the unchecked temerity of the National Front and British Movement at the end of the 1970s. RAR, later allied to the Anti-Nazi League, was a kind of Pop Front pitted against the most extreme of the right-wing movements. It's fair to remember now that the main musical impetus and the decision to combat racism via rock came largely from the fact that racism was expressing itself in rock. Guitar hero Eric Clapton had seen fit to explain between numbers at a concert – in Birmingham of all places – how Enoch Powell and repatriation were the answers to the nation's

woes. There was also Bowie's brief aesthetic flirt with fascism.

The aesthetics weren't unimportant. Part of the thrust and impact of Rock Against Racism was an awareness of the debt owed to black music. Rock up to and including punk had drifted away from black roots. The anti-fascist festivals echoed to reggae, ska, bluebeat, soul and jazz. There was always the hint that white musicians – who like Clapton played a music that was 75 per cent black – were working off a prick of guilt at their own "colonial" exploitations. The summers of 1978 and 1979 more than anything saw young British black musicians take their rightful place at the forefront.

Widgery, though, claims a greater victory, no less than the turning of the fascist tide. In that belief, he has the unlikely testimonial of the enemy itself and the claim by NF supremo Martin Webster that the RAR/ANL campaigns drove the Front back off the streets. The uneasy truth is that the far right in Britain has always been little more than a paper tiger and that the real sources of racism have survived 1978 and 1979 as strong as ever and as deeply institutionalized.

Feeling good and doing good are not to be confused, and Widgery confuses good feeling with substantial change. The decision to attack fascism through music was a tactical "turn" carefully thought about and orchestrated – in part by the Socialist Workers' Party – and it fell victim to its own rather sentimental success. For pop is first and last, and quite properly, youngsters having fun. Revolutionaries don't dance.

Band Aid was the lineal descendant of Rock Against Racism and inherited its contradictions twice over; 1985 was not 1979 and "politics", at least among the young, was no longer in style. No one was slow to suggest that Bob Geldof conceived the whole thing to revive a flagging career. This is cynical and jumps the more obvious point: Geldof's musical career was on the skids because his songs had been too unremittingly angry and serious. Compassion, by 1985, was a more appealing emotion.

Live Aid underlined every single contradiction in the relation between music and politics. Pop is almost 90 per cent attitude and if caring socialism looks hip then any millionaire singer can espouse socialism without changing his lifestyle a whit. A few redirected royalties make very little difference. It's not irrelevant to point to the half-eaten lunches and champagne backstage at Live Aid, the obsession with Access numbers and methods of payment, the compassion-as-shopping. Nor is it meaningless to point again to the absence of black musicians on stage. Pop, though, is part of the system that created the Ethiopian disaster and only the opposite or absence of pop will put it right. None of which is necessarily to damn pop or the society that brought it about, only to

recognize that the one is not the answer to the other.

One of the many ironies of Live Aid – as Widgery points out – is that the two men who more than any opened pop to political ideas could not be there. John Lennon fell victim not to oppression but to one of the products of his own charisma, a befuddled "fan". Bob Marley survived his bullets to die of a brain tumour. Real life has his back in the hardest and most ironic ways.

Murley's charisma underlines the central problem of pop culture from Presley to Geldof, the identification of a young audience with its idol. Current figures like Jim Kerr, Glaswegian singer with Simple Minds, and Bono, vocalist of the Irish U2, cultivate deliberately charismatic, demagogic personalities. The movie *Privilege*, starring Paul Jones, chillingly showed how a singer's charisma could be turned to the advantage of repression and the Establishment. The outwardly naive *Wild in the Streets* fantasized a pop-based political movement that degenerates every time it threatens to stop the fun – into a succession of kindergarten coups. By the end, no one over the age of 10 can be trusted.

Pop is the purest expression of youth and the single overarching irony is that everyone involved in it is subject to the inevitability of ageing. The fans quickly fill in the natural wastage, a fall-away at 18 or 21 or later into more adult concerns. But the performers have a more direct interest in keeping going and ignoring the fact that their identity with their fans becomes less instinctive, less secure with every passing album, tour and year. The money men of pop are as the money men everywhere. The real anomalies – if not villains – are the pop critics. There have only been a handful – Greil Marcus, the late Lester Bangs, Nik Cohn, Julie Burchill – who have tried to express pop rather than explaining it, or perhaps explaining it rather than elevating pop into a separate entity. The rest do little more than generate the "serious" background noise that blocks the pure signal and keeps the supply side cold.

Paul Morley belongs on any list of pop's most significant writers. If he's the most disliked man in the business that may be because he's the least illusioned. On the *New Musical Express*, he brought to pop writing an enthusiasm for ideas – never ideology – that exactly matched pop's own: magnificent, unembarrassed inconsistency, exuberantly cynical. Morley's was the guiding hand behind *Frankie Goes To Hollywood*. FGTH was – definitely – the perfect transitory pop phenomenon.

Ask is a dizzy collage of interviews, impressions, sheer fictions, pasted together with Morley's opening reminiscence of a Melvin Bragg-composed Arts Review on Channel 4 where the wind-up man waved his arm and Morley didn't get

his say. That is the defining premise of *Ask*, after all, the "chatter of pop", a sound that signals vitality, maybe the final shiver of the whole phenomenon, drum roll or death rattle. Either way – and this is what his critics have missed – it isn't just showy ego-tripping; nor is there any authoritarian "reading" of the music.

Like all charismatic religions, pop induces an awful compulsion to talk. Pop is so visceral an un-thought-out that it leaves – but doesn't end – all the room in the world for sheer talk. *Ask* always the critics who'll desert the auditorium and lurk upstairs in the bar, talking.

It comes with age, and ageing is the killer subject of *Ask*. At least half of Morley's "subjects" are figures for whom the passing of the years is the real story: the Grateful Dead's Jerry Garcia, Jagger, Bowie, Steve Harley; Alan Cooper, Iggy Pop and Adam Ant all get tired these days. Sting recently said in a *Playboy* interview that the art of rock'n'roll destruction had already been perfected, what he was into was the art or rock'n'roll survival. Growing old, but staying young. Still crazy after all these years.

Most of them manage it to some extent, though the sheerest pop phenomenon of recent months was the great Wham! split and farewell. Two guys in their early twenties and at the peak of their (however questionable) energies, committing public euthanasia before a thousand teenage fans, thus leaving the myth of pop youth intact. Morley's brilliant portrayal of Gary Glitter, who in it is subject to the inevitability of ageing. The fans quickly fill in the natural wastage, a fall-away at 18 or 21 or later into more adult concerns. But the performers have a more direct interest in keeping going and ignoring the fact that their identity with their fans becomes less instinctive, less secure with every passing album, tour and year. The money men of pop are as the money men everywhere. The real anomalies – if not villains – are the pop critics. There have only been a handful – Greil Marcus, the late Lester Bangs, Nik Cohn, Julie Burchill – who have tried to express pop rather than explaining it, or perhaps explaining it rather than elevating pop into a separate entity. The rest do little more than generate the "serious" background noise that blocks the pure signal and keeps the supply side cold.

These days it is the mainstream press rather than the music weeklies that holds the most insistent mike on pop. Columns like the Sun's inept *Bizarre* and the *Mirror's* unfortunately named *White Hot Club* bear witness to the newsworthiness of the music business and the marketability of youth. Even the daily press, though, can't keep up with the currently slow pace. The *White Hot Club* is as often as not a dull cherry red of scooped embarrassment, full of nudging gossip, lame "style" notes, a weekly guide to "ins" and "outs" (a sure sign of age), and the odd moralizing swinge.

John Blake, the white hot editor, is only the most prominent figure in the gerontocracy of pop writing. No youngster, he's a figure as out of place and ill at ease as a would-be hip uncle who asks you how you feel about The Beatles breaking up. Blake's recent scoops include rumours of a new concoction called Cherry Coke (by this point everyone in Britain who hadn't tasted the new drink had at least tripped over an empty) and a very questionable "warning" about "crack", a designer drug that hasn't hit these shores. Probably the sole figure in the pop back-up business who shows any sign of youthful vitality, a *Whistle Test* co-presenter Andy Kershaw, a rather than a pundit and someone who spontaneously talks the same language as both performers and audience. Pop keeps going, but most of the snap and crackle has gone.



In *The Artist as Reporter*, Paul Hogarth charts chronologically the works of artists who have recorded historic, political and social events. Above, "The Breadline", an 1933 etching from the Depression by Reginald Marsh (Gordon Fraser £25.00).

A faint adumbration

The Pothunters and other school stories. By P. G. Wodehouse. Penguin £4.95. 0 14 08079 1.
The Gold Bat and other school stories. By P. G. Wodehouse. Penguin £4.95. 0 14 08080 5.

These stories will please and interest amateurs of Wodehouse, a far cry though they be from the masterly production of his mature years. Unlike the latter, they remain too close to reality. One can, without overstraining one's credulity, believe public school life at the turn of the century to have been somewhat as it is depicted in these stories. Different as the contemporary world may be from what the world was before the First World War, it is neither so remote from it, nor so radically other, as to give these stories the particular fascination of period pieces, or the special flavour of a recreated historical era. And for that reason they are a little flat. Had Wodehouse continued writing in this manner, he would have become a mere

hack who at last fell into deserved oblivion. But his discovery of his proper genre put him into a quite different class, that of the inspired innovators who, at whatever level they work, give a touch of magic to their creations, and enrich the world by their activities. Wodehouse later described his peculiar form as "a sort of musical comedy without music (that ignores) real life altogether".

The stories reprinted in these volumes do give some foreshadowing of the later finished works - complicated plots, occasional felicities of language, appropriate endings in which the good and the bad meet their respective suitable fates. But it is but a faint adumbration of what became Wodehouse's hallmark: complex absurdities of plot, highly diverting themselves; a language so woven out of literature that some of the allusions can be caught only on the wing in passing, and lightened by a genial mastery of apt misquotation; characters ludicrously comic in their persistent one-sidedness.

Pierre Watier

Mistaken identity

Mothers of the Novel: 100 good women writers before Jane Austen. By Dale Spender. Pandora £12.95. 0 86358 081 5.

Any male reviewer taking on *Mothers of the Novel* cannot fail to be aware that in its author's eyes he may be convicted of springing from that clan which historically has been prepared to "go to any lengths to present a literary heritage that is predominantly male". The "critical establishment" that has supposedly denied a place in the literary canon to the 100 women novelists that Dale Spender "reclaims" is for her a "dictatorship" of long standing.

Dale Spender chronicles the development of the novels written by women from the early 17th century to the time of Jane Austen in a detail and with an indignant force of expression intended to rehabilitate the many writers who have been denied their proper standing by male contempt, indifference and prejudice. Indigna-

tion, however, is a poor basis for literary criticism. *Mothers of the Novel* is a long, undisciplined, repetitious book. Repetitive with information about the lives of forgotten or unregarded novelists and the often hostile conditions under which they produced and published their work. It nowhere gives serious critical consideration to the essential question: what, as literature, has their work to offer us now? Governing, and in the event undermining, the presentation of Ms Spender's case is a demonology in which male critics have conspired to dismiss or devalue women writers for no better reason than their sex. The book abounds in this kind of impatient and patently unjust hyperbole: "if the laws of literary criticism were to be made explicit they would require as their first entry that the sex of the author is the single most important factor in any test of greatness".

Maybe there is a case to be made for Eliza Haywood (1693-1756) as a major figure; maybe Delariviere Manley (1663-1724) "ranks with Swift" as a

political journalist, and Mary Brunton (1778-1818) with Jane Austen. Claims such as these are plentiful. However, they are made with a quite astonishing disregard for the need to produce evidence that would justify them. Neither in her constant references to the "literary heritage" nor in her particular dealings with the unregarded does Ms Spender inspire confidence in her judgement. She quotes from her 100 novelists hardly at all. She sees no difference between the power of "moral vision" in Maria Edgeworth on the one hand and in Jane Austen and George Eliot on the other. As for Mrs Gaskell, "it is her sex - and in complete defiance of her writing - which ultimately determines her minor place in the history of letters". Sweeping assessments and unsupported assumptions of that kind are rife. The critical case for Ms Spender's neglected authors remains largely unopened.

Roger Knight

Gender gap

Malespeak. By Irma Kurtz. Jonathan Cape £9.95. 0 224 02342 X.
Man-Made Women. By G. Correa et al. Hutchinson £3.95. 0 19 162731 1.

If analysis of the male/female condition is needed at all then Irma Kurtz's new book *Malespeak* should sweep the board and replace all the agonizing, self-indulgent and largely hypocritical twaddle that has gone before her. *Malespeak* is a refreshingly honest

look at the differences between men and women and the consistent mistaken assumptions they make about each others psyches which perpetuate the battle between the sexes. Ms Kurtz's humour and sharp wit make entertaining reading, but also drives her point home with great effect: "There is one hurdle few men survive with spirit intact, one journey that fuddles their instincts, one contract they find hard to fulfil with honour, and one battle that leaves them bleeding on the field or scampers for shelter... it is marriage or, to use the modern euphemism appropriate to the coxing of men into an institution, it is 'commitment'."

Hilary Tagg

Personal gestures

Frank Ormsby on two collections of Irish verse

The New Oxford Book of Irish Verse. Edited by Thomas Kinsella. Oxford University Press £12.50. 0 19 211888 4.
The Faber Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry. Edited by Paul Muldoon. Faber £10.95 and £5.95.

No anthology pleases everyone completely, not even its editor, but some types of anthology, by their very nature, prompt more reservations than others. Prominent among the latter are those tricky enterprises which embody one judge's view of contemporary poetry in a particular country and those which attempt to encapsulate the work of centuries.

Thomas Kinsella's *The New Oxford Book of Irish Verse* ranges from pre-Christian times to the work of poets born around 1940. Aware of the different emphases he might have given to such a vast body of material, he has decided to "pick a 'thematic' path through the many possibilities", with particular reference to the ways in which poetry in Irish and English have inter-related.

The volume has the feel of a compilation made largely to illustrate a thesis or idea. In the early sections this is not damaging. Indeed, given that the undertaking is too great for a single anthology and that much of the work cannot be attributed to particular writers, it seems best to group poems under headings - "A Selection of Monastic Poems", "Anonymous Love Poetry", "A Selection of Fenian Poems", "Folk Poems and Songs, Prayers and Charms from the Irish" - though in choosing to use only his own translations Kinsella has missed the opportunity to represent a lively tradition of translation by others. He defends his procedure on the grounds that the range of available translations is uneven. Might it not, however, have extended our sense of the cross-fertilization which so interests him if he had used, say, Seamus Heaney's version of "Sweeney Astray" and Michael Hartnett's translations of *Dáibhí Ó Bruadair* (17th century)? Both Brendan Kennell's *The Penguin Book of Irish Verse* (1970, 1981) and John Montague's *The Faber Book of Irish Verse* (1974) are more adventurous in this respect.

Kinsella comments in his introduction that the "adequate presentation of contemporary careers would require another book". His own selection is "no more than a personal gesture", a "few poems that may confirm one of the themes or that have been personally important". This section of the anthology is decidedly scrappy. John Hewitt, Michael Longley, James Simmons, Eavan Boland, Medbh McGuckian and Paul Muldoon are among those excluded. Heaney's selection of five poems includes "Drover", an appreciative work by that poet's high standard. One of John Montague's four is "Hero's Portion", there presumably for its "thematic" links with certain poems from the Irish rather than any intrinsic excellence as a poem. Much more effective poems which would have fitted into Kinsella's scheme, such as Muldoon's "Immram", a version of the Irish "Voyage of Muldoon", or James Simmons' versions "From the Irish", have been ignored.

This is not to say that *The New Oxford Book of Irish Verse* is without its pleasures. The love poetry from the Irish is often vivid and engaging, the political journalist, and Mary Brunton (1778-1818) with Jane Austen. Claims such as these are plentiful. However, they are made with a quite astonishing disregard for the need to produce evidence that would justify them. Neither in her constant references to the "literary heritage" nor in her particular dealings with the unregarded does Ms Spender inspire confidence in her judgement. She quotes from her 100 novelists hardly at all. She sees no difference between the power of "moral vision" in Maria Edgeworth on the one hand and in Jane Austen and George Eliot on the other. As for Mrs Gaskell, "it is her sex - and in complete defiance of her writing - which ultimately determines her minor place in the history of letters". Sweeping assessments and unsupported assumptions of that kind are rife. The critical case for Ms Spender's neglected authors remains largely unopened.

A qualified welcome, then, to these anthologies. There may be too many poems in Kinsella's that are strictly the archives or of curiosity value only and Muldoon's may be rich and rigorous rather than richly representative, but there is much to savour in both.

Love Sylvia

"I could never be either a complete scholar or a complete housewife or a complete writer; I must combine a little of all, and thereby be imperfect in all." Thus Sylvia Plath in a letter to her mother in 1956. *Letters Home - Correspondence 1950-1963*, selected and edited with commentary by Aurelia Schober Plath, has now been published by Faber at £7.95. The letters offer a vivid account of growing up in the Fifties, and as one reviewer pointed out, makes "a useful correc-

early nature poems have a light and charm in their own right. But delight to encounter Goldsmith, Keats and Allington, to be reminded of work of Padraic Fallon and Devlin and to find the poems select themselves, such as Montague's "All Legendary Obstacles" and Muldoon's "A Disused Shed at Wexford".

The "adequate presentation" of "contemporary careers" serve as a description of Paul Muldoon's undertaking. In *The Faber Book of Contemporary Irish Poetry* he has chosen, bravely, to limit the work of ten poets: Patrick Kavanagh, Louis MacNeice, Seamus Heaney, John Montague, Thomas Kinsella, Michael Longley, Derek Mahon, John Durcan, Tom Paulin and Jack McGuckian. Even if it is argued that this approach is preferable to representing a large number of poets or two poems each, the anthology seems perversely exclusive. No Anne Clarke, John Hewitt, Richard Murphy, James Simmons, Michael Bennett, Brendan Kennelly, Eavan Boland, to mention a few. No Muldoon: unfortunate that, but surely justifiable. No introduction, either, to justify the selection or the contention that those included are "most consistently impressive in poets after Yeats".

There is, however, a prologue: an extract from a 1939 radio discussion of modern poetry between F. R. Higgins and Louis MacNeice. Higgins says that "pure poetry comes from 'land', that Irish poets have 'land' emanating from life, from an ancient from revealed religion and from 'nation'. MacNeice is willing to concede the existence of 'racial' music" but sees the poet as "a person instrument designed to record something which interests his mind and affects his emotions", whether it be gossamer or the Marxian dialectic, who fulfils his function if he records these things "with integrity and with as much music as he can compass or appropriate to his subject".

One of the strengths of Muldoon's anthology is that it represents a MacNeice approach rather than Higgins. Ireland is, naturally, the setting, inspiration and subject of many of the poems, but the selection does not seek to embody or promote a national "Irishness", or to illustrate an idea the way that Kinsella's does. Furthermore, the anthology is highly readable. The selections not only reflect the poets' range of subjects but also use of a large number of metres and poems to do so. Muldoon has chosen sensitively, combining the best recent anthology pieces with the best known. I came away with an even greater respect for Montague, Paulin and McGuckian, in particular, and persuaded that it is time to look again at the poetry of Thomas Kinsella. All the others are pleasingly representative, though it is unfortunate that Paul Durcan's collection *The Berlin Wall Café* (1985) appeared too late for consideration: it contains some of his best poems.

A qualified welcome, then, to these anthologies. There may be too many poems in Kinsella's that are strictly the archives or of curiosity value only and Muldoon's may be rich and rigorous rather than richly representative, but there is much to savour in both.

There's a strong element of Jewish humor, too, in *We Take Everything but Boys* (Linda Lewis, Corgi, £3.95), where the girls who set up a club with that name also discover that it isn't quite true. It is comforting to find that books about 13-year-olds beginning to find out about love can be subtle and complex. Jane O'Connor's *Just Good Friends* is a good example, a substantial and good-humored story (Puffin Plus, £1.95). But what I enjoyed most of all is the outrageous story of an all-girls rock group which has to become an all-boys group to succeed; for the heroine-plots group to *Dad Darling* (S. A. Kennedy, Puffin Plus, £1.75), love is certainly not the most important thing in life, though she does at last notice the colour of a certain boy's eyes. That I was reminded once or twice of *Some Like It*

Available options

What is Communication Studies? By James Watson. £2.95. 0 7131 6447 6.
What is Psychology? By Anthony Gale. £2.95. 0 7131 6442 5.
What is Social Anthropology? By Jean La Fontaine. £2.95. 0 7131 6445 X.

The What is? series from Edward Arnold is aimed at students deciding on A level options and at those thinking about higher education courses.

Each volume sets out, in simple language, the aims, methods, scope and applications of the subject. In *What is Communication Studies?*, James Watson, a senior lecturer, defines the nature of this subject and what is required from the student. Watson explains that Communication Studies cover not only intrapersonal and interpersonal communication and communication in groups and organizations, but also the languages of art, film and music, information technology and mass communication. He explains how to assimilate, comprehend and organize material and ideas in an essential part of communication studies.

Professor Anthony Gale attempts to give a flavour of what life is like as a psychology student and what it is like to be employed as a professional psychologist. His five chapters survey the key areas of psychology and psychological method, the studying of psychology as a subject, the discipline and working methods of the subject, psychology applied and the subject in relation to oneself.

Social anthropology rarely appears in schools and colleges and so it is useful to have Professor La Fontaine's concise text which forms a background to a university course. The varied elements of social anthropology, such as language, culture and custom, involve "endless fascination for those



who enjoy analysing a problem into its constituent elements". This is perhaps the best advertisement for the subject.

The Post Office Life Skills series: *It's Your Life Now.* By Edward A. Fennell and Patrick Scott. 333 37690 3. *Making Sense of Money.* By Edward A. Fennell and Kerry Jones. 37692 X. Macmillan Education £2.95 each.

Things You Need to Know. By Pen Kyle. Oxford University Press £3.50. 0 19 833527 X.

Social Issues: Book One, Britain. By J. M. Coult and N. C. Coult. Heinemann Educational £3.95. 0 435 46702 6.
Taught Not Caught: Strategies for sex education. Edited by Hilary Dixon and Gill Mullin. Learning Development Aids, Duke Street, Walsby, Camb. £9.95 + 99p p.p. 0 905 114 15 9.

It is one thing to present and discuss topical issues concerned with the transition from school or college to the adult world. It is more difficult to provide worthwhile activities and assignments for young adults coming to terms with greater personal responsibility. The Post Office Life Skills series attempts to overcome this problem by providing a series of varied exercises based on key issues. *It's Your Life Now* takes the student or trainee through several situations such as leaving school or college, running a home of your own, and living with

unemployment. *Making Sense of Money* is a useful supplement to helping students and trainees consider personal finance, budgeting, savings and taxation. The exercises on family finances and consumer rights are particularly helpful.

Things You Need to Know is an attractively produced book emphasizing a more pupil-centred approach towards the teaching of life-skills. An excellent text, supported by interesting and relevant photographs and illustrations, it has successfully avoided stereotyped assertions. The topics, although familiar, such as communication skills, getting ready for work and simple money management, are treated in a lively manner.

Social Issues: Britain could be used on any course with a social or political component. The topics are ideal for mixed ability teaching, and have a well-organized set of follow-up work. The chapter on the Mass Media has a fascinating section on censorship, focusing on press freedom during the Falklands conflict.

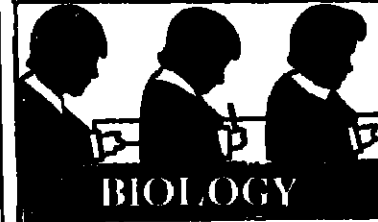
Taught Not Caught: Strategies for sex education, is an original guide to the teaching of sex education, approved by the Family Planning Association. The contents include activities, guidance on planning and evaluation and information resources. It is clearly written with well-organized instructions for teachers. The book does not moralize but places the responsibility on the reader to decide how appropriate the material is to sex education. This is an important book which should improve the quality of teaching and clarify the justification of sex education as a normal part of the school curriculum.

Richard Evans

Women in Society by Susan Dickinson (Longman £1.95. 0 582 22156 0) raises questions about the gender inequalities in society today, how they have come about and how they are still being perpetuated. Injustice is discussed without special pleading, but the logic is inescapable. Detached and unemotional, this is an excellent tool to combat prejudice.

Jessica Saraga

Cross section



A Dissection Atlas for the Rat. By J. Stanley and S. Njoku. 37 Greens Road, Cambridge £3.50 with 10 per cent discount on orders over 10 copies. 0 9510453 0X.

Looking at Vertebrates. By Elizabeth Rogers. Longman £9.95. 0 582 45086 1. **Biology for Schools and Colleges.** Second edition. By Colin Clegg. Heinemann Educational £9.50. 0 435 60172 5.

The authors of *A Dissection Atlas for the Rat* have selected the least enticing cover photograph imaginable - one of a rat with a scalpel - for a book that could be the only competitor to the long established *Guide* by Rowett. In addition to dissection instructions, Stanley and Njoku's book has information on the care of instruments, drawing technique, the life of the rat and its external parasites, but nothing on husbandry. There's one paradox; they emphasize the importance of scaling drawings, yet only on those of the flea and the louse is size indicated. If measurement and scaling are so crucial why haven't the authors indicated the "scaling up or down" on any of their drawings? The diagrams are usually clear but in some the fine detail and number of labels (as in the jaw angle on page 29) obscure the clarity.

The text is prescriptive and didactic; there is no real encouragement for the students to observe, question and suggest ideas as shown in this section from the instructions for heart dissection: "With the handle of your seeker, prod the two ventricles: the right one is soft, the left one is tense. This reflects the relative thickness of their walls." Moreover, the vocabulary and style of writing (as in "This gives freedom to adjust the two jaw halves independently according to the food load between the molars", page 26) would create problems for all but the ablest readers. A very different book is *Looking at Vertebrates*. Here the author provokes an investigative attitude for questions are scattered throughout the text and while some are answered immediately, others have answers elsewhere in the book and some are not answered at all. The detail and depth of treatment make the book appropriate to post-A level courses, but there is the odd diagram that would be useful to illustrate work in elementary courses, for instance, the sequence of movement in the frog and gibbon and the jaw muscles of the roe deer and dog. This book would be a useful addition to a reference library.

Clegg's second edition of *Biology* is a typical class text. It is a small, handy and light-weight book when compared with some of the other A level books currently available. Cytology, evolution and statistics are a few of the sections that have been revised. There are many illustrations in black, white and red and there are some photographs. These are not always very clear (eg the rabbit in the meadow on page 125). The text is adequate and terse but comprehensible and it matches the needs of most existing A level syllabuses. Each chapter ends with a useful summary and questions, including some guided examples. For this reason alone it is worth having a look at this new version.

Jackie Hardie

Paper passions

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

for herself; to enable parents to encourage the very youngest at home. Corgi are bringing out a series, graded for difficulty, called *Step into Reading*. My first impression is of uncertainty: one Step 1 book, *Sleepy Dog* (Harriet Ziefert, illustrated by Norman Gorbary, £1.50) seems very much easier than



Old Jim sits at the corner of the street telling tall seafaring tales in the paperback version of Eleanor Farjeon's reissued *Jim at the Corner*, with Ardizzone illustrations that are as fresh as ever (Magnet £1.50).

This year's Eleanor Farjeon Award for services to children's literature was presented to Judith Elkin at a ceremony at the Commonwealth Institute last week. Now a senior lecturer in the Department of Librarianship and Information Studies at Birmingham Polytechnic, she has worked for 20 years in children's books, especially in Puffin Classics (£2.50), however muted her politics sound now. A greater coup is *The Fairy Caravan*: this full-length story, hardly known, by Beatrix Potter, is something quite out of the common way (Young Puffin, £1.95). Of course, this is not a story a very young reader will be able to manage

another. Big Bird's Copycat Day (Sharon Mather, illustrated by Joe Mathews). Parents wanting to encourage their children to "learn to read by reading" will probably do as well simply by looking out for really funny and close-to-home picture stories like Geraldine's Blanket (Holly Keller, Hippo, £1.50). Later, the little reader can graduate to David McKee's strip cartoons, (King Rallo's Letter, Beaver/Sparrow, £1.95), and so by degrees to a children's classic which I have unaccountably missed until now: All About the Giant Alexander (Frank Herrmann, illustrated by George Him, Piccolo, £1.95), an enchanting book about which my only complaint is that the tight binding ruins some double-spread pictures which deserve a better fate.

Puffin have taken up a newish writer of interesting quality; both Gino Wilson's novels, the more recent *All Ends Up*, a Puffin (£1.95) and her first, *Cor Ravenwing* (£1.75), are concerned with friendship under stress, the haunting thought of death, and the situation of the outsider. This last is particularly poignant in *Cor Ravenwing*, the story of a girl who is excluded by her whole community in a way that must make the reader think. A similar idea, developed in a very different way, is at the heart of *The True Story of Lilli Stenbeck*; this is an elegantly and story, told in a very adult way by James Aldridge; for the reader interested in character and motivation, this will be a book to relish. (Puffin Plus, £1.95.) It is the most distinguished of a good batch of Australian books for various ages. Eleanor, Elizabeth (Libby Gleeson, Puffin, £1.75) deals for somewhat younger readers with a similar, though less extreme problem of settling into a new community; here, the past comes to the aid of the present. Carillon in *Am I Going with You?* (Thurley Fowler, Hippo, £1.25), also has to join a new school in a new place and make his own way; here, in what looks like a very simple story, there are nevertheless interesting thoughts about the nature of selfishness. Dear Emily is another matter

again; a perfectly awful, conceited, miserable girl living in a city slum writes a series of patronizing letters to a pen-friend in the country; the joke goes on too long, and since most children must dislike irony, may not be appreciated in the first place. (Maureen Stewart, Puffin, £1.75).

Two ghost stories. *The Ghost Girl* is marvellously informative about the feelings storming about in Northern Ireland, the most helpful book in this line since Joan Lingard's series (Catherine Seldon, Magnet, £1.50). *Something Special* is for younger readers, and plays gently with the idea of the clothes given for a jumble sale being haunted by the nature of the people who used to own them, and needing to go to similar people. (Emily Rodda, illustrated by Nicola Young, Young Puffin, £1.25.)

Finally, two books for hobbyists. *How to Catch Tiddlers* (Ian Russell, illustrated by David Parkins, Puffin, £1.50) is exactly what it claims to be, and so, indeed, is *The New Observer's Book of Motorcycles* (Robert M. Croucher, Frederick Warne £2.95); it is serious of a series, and if you are a serious spotter of any of the things the series deals with, the book must be indispensable.

Audrey Laski

Glue Sniffing and Solvent Abuse

by Denis J. O'Connor

published by the Boys' & Girls' Welfare Society
A no-nonsense, practical book with detailed case studies. It is stark and realistic but offers guidance with a wealth of sound information for everyone concerned with solvent abuse.

Soft cover £5.55 (incl. p+p)
Cheques made payable to the "Boys' & Girls' Welfare Society" addressed to Publications Dept., Boys' & Girls' Welfare Society, Central Office, 57a Schools Hill, Cheshire SK8 1BE.

Pop up and play

Gerald Haigh reviews games, packs and projects for primary schools



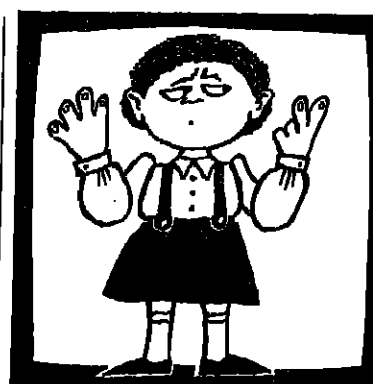
Dragons and Serpents
Witches and Demons
Pop-up play packs, by Moira Brook and Frankie Brownlee
Price £2.95 each inc VAT
Methuen, 11 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 4EE.

These packs enable children to make mobile scenes in the "pop-up" style to accompany the story which is provided, or, indeed, to be used in a variety of other imaginative ways. Each one consists of an A4 card folder which has the title and a colour on the back, with a short story on the two inside pages.

Carried within each folder are four cards on which are printed the various pop-up models and scenes to be cut out. On the reverse of most of the cards are diagrams and instructions to help with cutting and making.

The models are printed in black and white for children to colour in. They are very much in the baroque style familiar to us from so many modern fantasy games and books. But they are in fact relatively easy to make, with due care and a certain amount of skill in handling rule and scissors. An average seven-year-old would need some help and advice, though a bright older child will derive a lot of pleasure from working things out for herself.

I am not at all sure that art educators would be too delighted at the prospect of children colouring in and cutting out, but as an activity in its place this is unpretentious, pleasurable and intriguing. The results may not always match up to the colour pictures, but do they ever?

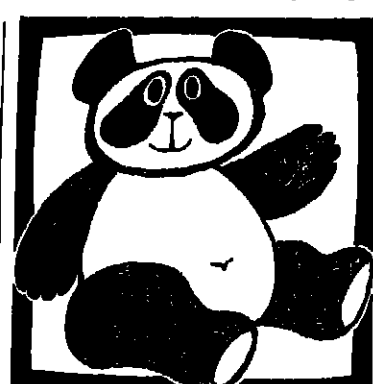


Factor Finders
Scope Educational £7.85 each + VAT
Distributed by Philip and Tacey Ltd,
North Way, Andover, Hants SP10.

Children will play this game for hours if allowed to. The process of working out which counters to remove creates unbearable tension; correct answers produce cheers, incorrect ones groans. The game is suitable for moderately numerate children aged about eight upwards, and although it is ostensibly for two players, any teacher will be able to devise ways of involving up to about six. It is intended to help in the learning of the characteristics of all the numbers in the 100 square multiplication matrix.

The game board consists of a 100-square matrix. Each number in the matrix is printed at the bottom of a slightly sunken circle into which a penny-sized counter will fit. At the beginning of the game one player has a stack of yellow counters and the other a stack of red. Each number on the matrix is covered with a blank counter.

A set of small cards is provided each printed with a number. These are placed face down and the players look at them in their turn, going on to calculate which black counters will have to be removed to uncover the factors of the number on the card. Thus if player one turns up a card bearing the number 20, she will then have to look at the two axes and work out that the black counter to be removed are those at the positions 2x10, 10x2, 4x5, 5x4. If she is correct she may replace the black counters with her own - red or yellow. If she is wrong, the opponent may claim the factors for herself.



WASP Zoo
"Creating a dynamic for learning"
Price £1.50 inc. postage
Available from the Administrator,
Brycebox Arts in Education Team,
King Charles Centre, Hollyfield Road,
Surrey.

This pamphlet describes an arts-based cross-curricular project undertaken by two first-year junior classes at Latchmere Junior School in Kingston. It is published in response to the amount of interest shown by teachers and advisers in other areas.

During the project, the normal school curriculum was suspended for a week and children were encouraged by their teachers and by visiting artists to use drawing and drama in support of an investigation into the needs and problems of endangered wild animals and into the various moral issues which confront man in this context.

It is clear that the project had a major impact on the life of the school in which it took place and that many children were encouraged to produce work and develop insights far beyond what was being achieved in the framework of the standard curriculum. The booklet is practical and very well illustrated with photographs of children's work. The project clearly had many facets and richly imaginative strands running through it. Every school should get hold of a copy so that teachers can read it for themselves.

This is not to say that every school should have its own WASP (Wild Animals and Special Projects) but that there are obviously so many other ways in which the same philosophy could be brought to bear.



Tombo, the Street Game
By Duccio Vitale
Designed for UNICEF
Price £5.50 plus p.p.
Available from Jill Wilcox, Information Officer, UNICEF, 55 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2.

This board game for one to six players is intended to give Western children an insight into the life of street children in a Latin American City. Each player takes on the role of a street child, and lives out a day in the city which is marked out in play on the game board. Each child has to get through the day on his or her wits, making a little money by activities such as washing or selling coffee. There are opportunities to buy food and medicines, and there is a "Street Children's Centre".

The game has many subtleties and catches - for instance, a child may indulge in illegal activities, such as travelling on the bus without paying, or stealing food, but there is a correspondingly higher risk of ending up in the police station.

The collective aim is for all six players each to arrive back home with five products which they have bought, and an exercise book which they have had from the literacy course at the centre. There is competition in that the first child home is the winner, but there is also the opportunity of extra fun and a celebration if all six make it to the end!

This is a really lovely game, well produced, very educational and great fun. Take care of the bits and pieces, though, because they are all necessary and would be difficult to replace.



The Play It Safe Adventure Book
Price 95p, discounts for bulk orders
British Institute of Traffic Education
Research, Kent House, Kent
Birmingham B5 6OP.

This booklet "filled with colorful cartoon stories and activities aimed at promoting safety in a wide variety of places - in traffic, on the beach, in Guy Fawkes night or in the home. Various characters, including a group called "Le Crunch Bunch", encourage readers to wear seat belts, board stationary buses, keep away from floating chemical drums and not on fields of growing corn.

There are quizzes, codes and, of course, the inevitable colouring in. Children like it well enough, and teachers who worry about cartoon books and "colouring in" can at least reassure themselves that there is a lot of safety advice in a small space.

Beginning with Numbers
Price £1.95
Beginning to Read
Price £1.95
Oxford University Press, Ely House,
37 Dover Street, London W1X 4AB.

Oxford University Press produce numerous workbooks for basic subjects. These packs each include two workbooks.

Beginning with Numbers is a two-part series. The first, *Beginning to Read*, is a workbook for children aged 5-7. The second, *Beginning with Numbers*, is a workbook for children aged 7-9. Both are written by a team of experts and are designed to be used in conjunction with the *Beginning to Read* series.

Reading process

Evaluating Curriculum Materials
"An Introduction" £2.50
"Unit 1: The Reading Process" £3.50
Longman Resources Unit, 62 Haffield Road, Laythorpe, York YO3 7XQ.

Evaluating Curriculum Materials is the result of classroom-based research and consists of information papers and workshop activities intended to help teachers assess their written resources "in terms of the language organization, presentation, concepts and tasks... to consider their purposes in using the resource materials and the kinds of learning they are likely to promote."

The project was based on several premises. The curriculum is reading based but many pupils are neither taught nor acquire for themselves the requisite skills for reading for learning. This is often compounded by presenting them with material which is too difficult and so they fail.

The introductory unit of *Evaluating Curriculum Materials* is concerned with the background to the research and explains the way the other four units may be used in the light of the in-service model adopted. The four units in the process of being published are "The Reading Process" (published), "Readability", "Concepts" and "Assessing Comprehension".

The first part of "The Reading Process" provides a succinct account of what is involved in reading. This considers in turn primary, intermediate and higher order reading skills. Also included are some useful practical activities.

It is not until page 34, however, that the reader is given the timely warning that to treat the subject in this way does not mean that reading skills follow a neat linear or hierarchical development. A crucial point like this should have been made at the outset, for the three groups of skills are interdependent and the acquisition of one is not necessarily a prerequisite for developing the others.

The final section of the book contains a sensible discussion on reading tests together with a handy checklist of questions to ask before choosing a test.

"The Reading Process" contains nothing that is blindingly new or original, but it does provide an excellent summary of what is involved in learning to read in the full sense. It would be an extremely useful publication for student teachers and deserves a place on all junior and secondary staff bookshelves.

Wendy Body

Butterfly wings

Replicas of British Butterflies
Four boxes each containing six replicas
Price £7.75 including VAT, p.p.
Available from Bristol Reproductions, The Owl House, Rungington, Wellington, Somerset TA21 0QW.

Replicas of British Butterflies come in transparently lidded boxes each containing six life-sized butterflies. The range of species includes Camberwell Beauty, Large Blue, Small Copper, Grizzled Skipper, Brimstone and White Admiral. The replicas are displayed on a card sheet and are easily removed by taking off a plastic retaining pin, the pitch of the wings can also be altered and a set of five wires is supplied so that the replica can be attached to vases of greenery or twigs. The colour patterns have been accurately caught, although in some cases the colours themselves are not as brilliant as in real life. Teacher's notes are provided, which contain suggestions for using the replicas, ways of attracting butterflies to gardens and biological details about each replica. A short list of books for background reading would have been helpful.

This is an attractive, well-produced product which will enhance children's interest in butterflies. It is ideal for primary schools, especially at such a reasonable price.

John A Barker

Varied diet

SMP 11-16, Years 3-5
Details of prices are available from the Home Sales Department, Cambridge University Press, The Edinburgh Building, Shaftesbury Rd, Cambridge.

The material for this course is in two distinct parts. The first, aimed at years one and two, consists of a series of topic booklets designed to enable pupils to work individually and at their own pace. For years three to five the format reverts to textbooks designed for more conventional class teaching.

A Green Course caters for the least academic pupils and a Yellow Course for the top ability range. Middle range pupils all follow a Blue Course and some can go on to a Red Course. The Green Course provides a wide range of materials based on eight small textbooks which, together with resource packs and topic booklets, provide a reasonably varied diet for the class teacher to use in the fourth and fifth years which offers three levels of award to successful pupils.

There is an accompanying certification scheme for use in the fourth and fifth years which offers three levels of award to successful pupils. It is claimed that the yellow, red and blue courses are designed to provide a realistic curriculum in line with Cocksfoot recommendations and with some of the more innovative work seen so far and its somewhat right means of assessment would appear to need broadening if it is to truly reflect the aims and ideals of the new era.

Jasmine Richards

Colin Russell

Doppelgänger

English is very predominant. However, the guidelines given are very sound indeed, and regular practice with the guided tasks would allow pupils to become confident in writing skills, albeit hardly to the standard set in the model essays (eg "als Klaus auf einmal unterzogen begann, ergriff ihn eine panische Angst"). The book's real strength, though, lies in the excellent "resource bank" of expressions, which are essential if pupils are required to take and pass this kind of exam exercise.



Schwein!!!
Eine Verleumdung!!!

Deutsch heute, Stages 2 and 3
Pupils' books £4.60 each; teachers' resource books £10.50; 2x cassettes £18.50; spiritmasters stage 2 £14.95, stage 3 £13.95

Thomas Nelson & Sons Ltd, Nelson House, Mayfield Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey KT12 5PL.

Deutsch heute Stages 2 and 3 complete Nelson's three-part German course begun so successfully three years ago. They follow and are similar in format to the first stage and are similarly accompanied by a teacher's resource book, cassettes or tapes, and spirit masters. Stage 2 aims to provide ample preparation for CSE (or presumably

notes

OPERATION RALEIGH
British Rail, a sponsor of the Operation Raleigh youth expeditions, is to donate an Operation Raleigh School Pack to every teachers' centre in the country. The Operation Raleigh Schools Project offers a fresh approach to studies of the developing world for 9 to 14-year-olds. The first pack (cost £29.50) is based on expeditions to Central America last year.

Operation Raleigh, Alpha Place, Flood Street, London SW3 5SZ.

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Yes, Prime Minister

Robin Buss reviews Channel 4's study of cabinet government

All the Prime Minister's Men
Channel 4
July 10, 17 and 24, 8.00pm.

almost furtive way... as if it was a private laundry.

Macmillan's cabinet, Lord Hailsham recalls, had something of "the dining club or the country house party", enlivened by quotations from Homer and references to the Wars of the Roses; and Macmillan would arrange the seating so that he did not have Enoch Powell's basilisk eye fastened on him across the table.

There is an element of classroom management in the way PMs deal with their ministers, the Labour lords on the whole being a more unruly lot than Mr. Powell's colleagues who nodded "like cuckoo clocks". Cabinets cannot deal with everything; Wilson's "miscellaneous" took some of the burden of contentious issues off the shoulders of his colleagues and Attlee made sure that virtually none of his ministers had to worry about the atom bomb.

Even when matters are brought to their attention, "ministers have very little time to think" (Lord Rothschild), with the result that they are happy to be guided on most issues: "the don't know almost always support the Prime Minister" (Douglas Jay).

The programmes rely heavily on the revelations of former ministers and civil servants, and raise important questions, not least about the secrecy of cabinet government. As educational material, programme one, in particular, expects a knowledge of postwar history. It concludes by arguing that Thatcher inherited from Callaghan a strengthened premiership and has made full use of it: programme two centres on the more recent affairs of the Falklands and Westland.

If heads and more frequently and Thatcher has a high "grovel count" (Lord Bancroft), it may be partly that ministers are overworked. Susan Crossland recalls telling her husband that if she led his life, it would kill her; "it never occurred to me that it would kill him".

The central question the series asks is perhaps whether a system which has grown up in this haphazard way, able to sustain the power of a sick premier (Eden at the time of Suez) and demanding a great deal of ministers if they are to participate conscientiously in it, is good for the health of the government and the country.

Talking pictures

Hugh David on ITV's Children's Drama Exchange



Terry Jones sets the scene

CHILDREN'S TELEVISION
Under the Same Sky
ITV, Thursdays 4.45pm.

Under the Same Sky promises to be one of the most interesting series on children's television this summer. A collection of 11 plays, each one has been made in a different country under the European Broadcasting Union's Children's Drama Exchange scheme. Each also sets out to depict a characteristic aspect of life in its originating country. Yorkshire Television produced the British contribution with which the series began last week. Sticking close to the company's base in Leeds, *The Silver Comet* was entirely set among the Yorkshire Dales and concerned a small boy's infatuation with the world of brass - or, in this case, silver - bands. Attractions in forthcoming weeks will include productions by Swedish, Australian, French, Yugoslavian, Italian and American television.

All 11 plays are being shown in their original form. There are no subtitles and the native language of the production has been left undisturbed. It is a brave move, something at which even Channel 4 might blush, but it is crucial to the idea of the Children's Drama Exchange.

English-speaking children should have no difficulty coping with the plays, in the same way that non-English-speaking audiences will be able to follow *The Silver Comet*. To test this point I watched it first with the sound down and had no trouble deciding what was happening.

The audience is not left entirely on its own, however. In this country Terry Jones, of *Monty Python* fame, provides a brief scene-setting introduction to each play. He will have more than earned his fee if he can just persuade some of the Children's ITV audience to stay tuned.

play *The Mushroom Mountain* (September 4).

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briefings

radio & t v
Continuing education and general interest

HOMO FABER
(Saturday, 14.00 R4)
Max Frisch's play has been dramatized by Jane Beeson and stars Michael Pennington as Walter Faber, a highly successful Swiss-German technocrat. His scientific approach to life's problems is radically changed after a plane crash in the desert.

MODERN EUROPEAN AUTHORS
(Saturday, 17.00 VHF4)
The French author Colette learned how to write by ghosting for her husband. Nicole Ward Jouve investigates the development of the sensitive style that was to become her trademark.

20/20 VISION
(Saturday, 14.30 C4)
Film shot secretly in Russia provides evidence that the Soviet authorities have been working thousands of prisoners to death in dangerously unsafe uranium mines.

LOOKING INTO EUROPE
(Sunday, 16.30 VHF4)
In "The Borders and Bridges", Dr Anthony Glees consults with critics and practitioners of links with Europe. Is it possible to keep a national identity and belong to an integrated Europe?

HOW TO BE CELTIC
(Monday, 14.30 C4)
How do the people of Brittany strive to preserve their identity? This film concentrates on the Inter-Celtic Festival in Lorient, pinpointing problems, aspirations and the post-war history of the Bretons' struggle.

COMMODITIES
(Monday, 22.00 C4)
"White Gold, Black Market" is the first in a series telling the story of the importance of tea, coffee and sugar. Here a Dutch merchant takes over a sugar plantation in Brazil and an Englishman gets embroiled in the Opium War of 1839-42.

QUESTIONS OF DEFENCE
(Tuesday, 19.30 BBC2)
Six episodes in the history of NATO continue with the way West Germany came to be re-armed and the effects this had on NATO itself.

AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS
(Wednesday, 15.47 R4)
Ferdinand Denis gives a personal account of his return to the African continent. Here he revisits Dar-es-Salaam.

DESIGNERS
(Wednesday, 19.30 BBC2)
Industrial designers talk about what they are doing and why. This week cutlery designer Robert Welch shows a variety of products from one-off silver presentation pieces to mass-produced kitchen cutlery designed for firms in Sheffield, Japan and the Shetland Isles.

4 Titles Available For Recording From Sunday 13 July 1986
Approximate Transmission Times

Sunday 13 July	5.15 Buildings - Who Cares? - Repeat	Friday 18 July	3.30 Asian Arts Fee Code D
Monday 14 July	6.00 Up And Coming Fee Code B	Saturday 19 July	6.00 Right To Reply Fee Code A
Tuesday 15 July	8.00 Blood of the British - Repeat	For more information contact:	
Wednesday 16 July	8.30 Diverse Reports Fee Code B	GUILD LICENSING	
Thursday 17 July		6 Royce Road,	
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Hartley, A.C. Education,
14 Bridge House School,
14 Bridge House, London
SE26 6SL. (154351) 205624

AVON COUNTY
THE NURSERY NURSE
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Worcester, Worcestershire, WR1
Required for September 1988
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WALTHAM FOREST COLLEGE School of Engineering

Lecturer Grade I
IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Required for September 1988, an experienced Mechanical
Engineer to teach Workshop Practice and associated theory
to Engineering Craft and Technician apprentices and stu-
dents. Applicants should hold City and Guilds of London
Institute Business and Technician Education Council Techni-
cian Certificate together with sound practical experience.
Holders of Part III Craft certificates will also be considered for
this post. A knowledge of Computer Aided Engineering
would also be an advantage.
Department of Sciences

Temporary
Lecturer Grade I
IN MATHEMATICS/NUMERACY

The successful applicant will be required to teach Mathematics
and Numeracy on VTS and similar courses at City and
Guilds and RSA Levels.
A commitment to an understanding of the difficulties experi-
enced by students on such courses is essential since teaching
at this level is considered a speciality.
This is a post funded by the Manpower Services Commission
and is for one year from 1 September 1988 in the first
instance.
School of Automobile Engineering
Applicants are invited for the post of

Lecturer I or
Lecturer II

to teach a wide range of motor vehicle courses including
VTS, City & Guilds and BTEC. Subject to qualifications and
experience the successful applicant will be appointed on the
appropriate grade. Ability to develop specialist areas and
courses an advantage.
Salary per annum inclusive:
Lecturer Grade I £7,002 to £11,925
Lecturer Grade II £5,754 to £13,623
Application forms and further details from:
Personnel Services Officer, Waltham Forest College,
Forest Road, London E17 4JB Tel: 01-527 2311 Ext. 259.
Closing date: 22nd July 1988. (00152)

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
EMPLOYER
Applicants are considered for their
ability, sex, race and marital status.

Waltham
Forest

Devon County Education Committee
BICTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
East Budleigh, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 7BY

LECTURER
IN
EQUINE SUBJECTS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons
with Horse and Stable Management Skills and teaching
experience, to teach equine subjects and give practical
instruction to full-time and part-time students.
Candidates should be experienced in Breeding and
Show work and be able to give instruction up to B.H.S.
Instructor standards.
Salary for Teachers in Farm Institutes Lecturer IA
£8,324 to £11,247
point of entry according to age and experience.
Further details and application form, returnable by
Thursday, 24th July, 1988, from the Principal. (00147)

TRESHAM
COLLEGE

LI in Social Care

Required from 1st September 1988 (or as soon as possible
thereafter) a Lecturer with work experience within the social
services field and with a social sciences degree or COSW to
teach all age groups on a range of courses which include
CPVE, VTS, playgroup, pre-retirement, and working with
the elderly.
A teaching qualification is desirable but otherwise appropri-
ate instruction would be available.
Closing date: 28th July 1988.
Applications on receipt of a large SAE can be obtained from:
The Principal's Secretary, Tresham College,
St. Mary's Road, KETTERING, Northants.
Tel. Kettering 85353 Ext. 205. (00108)

COLLEGES OF FURTHER EDUCATION

continued

GWYNEDD
GWYNEDD ADJOYNG
EDUCATION AUTHORITY
COLEG TECHNOL
Gwynedd, Bangor, Gwynedd
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HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE

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Kent County Council

Education Committee

Mid-Kent
College
of Higher and
Further Education

Department of Mechanical
and Production Engineering

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the
following posts - tenable from September 1988 or as soon as
possible thereafter.
LECTURER GRADE II - to teach Engineering
Applications, CNC and associated techno-
logies to HND level.
LECTURER GRADE II - to teach mechanical
and production engineering subjects to BTEC
First Certificate level and be responsible for the
development and integration of work up to this
level.
Salary scale: Lecturer Grade II £8,076 - £12,946.
Application forms and further details available from the
Principal, Mid-Kent College of Higher and Further
Education, Horsted, Maidstone Road, Chatham, Kent, ME5
9UQ, Tel: 0634 44770 ext 240, to whom completed forms
should be returned by Friday 25 July.

HERTFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL
ST ALBANS COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF
HUMANITIES STUDIES
LECTURER I
Required from 1 September
1988, a qualified teacher to

OSMOND HOUSE YOUTH PROJECT

BLACK WORKER
REQUIRED TO CO-ORDINATE
YOUTH WORKSalary £6,900 - £10,638 p.a.
(starting point dependent upon training and experience)

Osmond House is located in an Inner-City multi-culture community in Birmingham. It provides a School Programme and a range of Youth Work activities.

If you want responsibility
If you have energy and ideas
If you have Youth Work Training and experience
If you are keen to promote services for Black Youth

THIS IS THE JOB FOR YOU

Barnardo's is a Christian Child Care organisation and offers conditions of service broadly in line with local authorities. Applications for posts are welcomed from persons irrespective of disability, marital status, sex or race. Transferable pension.

For further information please contact Dave Stennard, Project Leader (021 449 2886).

For application form please apply in writing, giving brief details of training and experience, to Eileen Hipkiss, Personnel Secretary, Dr. Barnardo's, "Brooklands", Great Cornbow, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 3AB.

Closing date: 29th July, 1986.

This post is advertised in accordance with Section 5(2)(d) of the Race Relations Act 1976.



Barnardo's

YOUTH & COMMUNITY
continuedHAMPSHIRE
WATERLOO COUNCIL OF
COMMUNITY SERVICERequirements:
Training Manager
To assist the Youth Training Scheme through Approved Training Scheme and beyond.

The scheme is a former Community Project that is now developing the full training programme now available. It has achieved considerable change and the appointed person would continue this role.

This challenging opportunity requires a person with a training or education background, preferably in the area of youth work or training. Management experience could be useful, but only if accompanied by the necessary educational experience.

Salary will be in the region of £9,000 p.a. for the suitable applicant.

Write for details and application form to: Waterloo Council of Community Service, Top Floor, Oliver House, 100, South Street, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH2 6XZ.

Waterloo Council of Community Service is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications from people regardless of sex, race or disability.

CLOSING DATE: 18th July, 1986. (142101) 440000

LONDON

Inner London Education Authority

ST. GILES YOUTH CLUB

YOUTH WORKER (35)

An exciting opportunity exists for an experienced youth worker to lead a team of part-time and volunteer workers in a South East London Club. The St. Giles Youth Centre is a voluntary organisation with an energetic management committee and youth work team, committed to offering quality youth work in a multi-cultural environment.

A commitment to and ability to implement the Authority's Equal Opportunities policies is essential.

SALARY & CONDITIONS: £11,365 - £11,508. Trainee should expect an allowance of £1,750 p.a. to £1,800 p.a. subject to one month's satisfactory service in post. Both rates quoted include London allowance.

Appointment will be to the service of the Authority with a contract for 3 years.

Assistance may be given towards housing and removal expenses. The post is suitable for job share. Applications for job share will only be considered if submitted on a paired basis.

Application forms from 85 Park Road, Kenton, Middx. UB8 3PQ. Tel: 01-761 8559.

CLOSING DATE: 18th July, 1986. (142121) 440000

ENFIELD
LONDON BOROUGH OF

YOUTH WORKERS

Arising from the Review of the Youth Service in Enfield new Youth Workers posts have been established. Applicants for these posts need to be experienced and qualified and are required from 1st September, 1986.

1. FORDERS END CENTRE. To develop work with young people in the Forders End area, thus enabling them to utilise resources and activities at the Youth Centre.

2. ALAN PULLINGER CENTRE. To extend the development of day-time provision and the Junior section of the centre, together with developing youth work in the surrounding area.

3. CRAIG PARK CENTRE. To draw on past experience to develop the provision to help develop the youth team and the work of the centre including the development of the 14-17 provision - a new project in the development of the Youth Centre.

To assist the co-ordinator of the Unit by providing youth activities with young people in areas where existing youth services are felt to be inadequate.

The four posts mentioned above are all paid on a full-time basis of 37.5 hours per week. £10,470 plus London Weighting.

All of these posts require the Youth Workers to work as part of the Borough's full-time Youth Work Team.

Candidates should send job descriptions from: Education Officer, Enfield Youth Centre, Box 26, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield EN1 3XQ. Tel: 01-835 6167.

Closing date: 25th July, 1986. An equal opportunity employer. (142831) 440000

LONDON

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CLOSING DATE: 18th July, 1986. (142121) 440000

Assessment Centres

ROTTERHAM
METROPOLITAN
COUNCIL

Rotterdam is an equal opportunities employer.

A deputy to the Teacher in Charge of the Centre is required. The post is suitable for job share. Applications for job share will only be considered if submitted on a paired basis.

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